

Arctic blizzards prompt No 10 meeting on cold weather payments

Government's about-turn on £5 freeze aid

In a surprising and sudden about-turn which delighted Conservative MPs and caught the Opposition unawares, the Government yesterday responded to criticism of its severe weather payments scheme by announcing several days early that all the 1.5 million people entitled to it will get their £5 payment this week.

With Britain still in the grip of Arctic weather conditions the move, which involves the effective scrapping of the scheme for this first week of the freeze, was taken at a hastily-called Downing Street lunchtime meeting yesterday between the Prime Minister, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. It was announced to the Commons during Question Time by Mr John Major, the Minister for Social Security.

It was followed by a bitter Commons row between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock, who said that it was an admission of the utter incompetence of the present "supposed" system and told her to get rid of it.

Mrs Thatcher said that

given the unprecedentedly low temperatures the Government was "waiving strict bureaucratic procedures".

The dispute will be pursued in a full-day Commons debate today in a debate chosen by the Opposition on the plight of old people, although the Government whips last night were confident that Mr Fowler's move had taken the sting out of the Opposition attack.

The decision, to be extensively advertised in the national press tomorrow and Friday, will cost the Government £7.5 million this week. It was taken so that the one million pensioners on supplementary benefit, and some 500,000 other families on supplementary benefit with a child under two or with someone chronically sick and disabled, know that they are assured of the payment and will be encouraged to use it on heating their homes.

The decision therefore met one of the main criticisms of the scheme - that people cannot be certain until the end of a cold week whether they will qualify for the payment. Under the rules, payment is due only if temperatures fall to an average of 29 deg F (minus 1.5 deg C) for a seven-day period from Monday to Sunday. Without yesterday's decision it would have been next Tuesday before the Government announced which areas of the country had triggered the special payment for the past week.

It was clear last night that

while the cold spell continues, the situation will be reviewed weekly, with the likelihood of a similar announcement next week.

Mr Major told MPs that the Government's firm expectation was that the trigger point of the payments would be reached throughout the country this week. Because of that and the unprecedented cold weather everyone eligible would receive the payment this week.

In response to calls from both sides to look at the way the formula operated in future Mr Major said that his mind was open.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social security, said that the trigger point was absurdly low, and the payment of £5 came nowhere near to meeting need. He suggested a £25 automatic payment every week during the winter.

Mr Kinnock welcomed Mr Major's move but said it was a "hopelessly inadequate way of trying to remove the gross deficiencies of a pathetically bad system".

He asked whether MPs were to expect weekly announcements by ministers so that the old and cold could live. He called on the Government to scrap the present inadequate system and introduce one which provided secure and constant help, responding to deep fears about paying bills.

Ridley's spending spree for councils

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

A spending spree by local authorities in the run-up to the general election was approved last night by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

He is providing town halls with £1 billion extra rate support grant, 9 per cent more than last year, which with higher rate revenue will increase spending by 13 per cent, or £2,750 million, to £25,250 million in 1987-88.

A windfall grant of £385 million, withheld by ministers two years ago because of supposed council overspending, will be handed out because most authorities have brought spending closer to government targets.

In another display of central government largesse, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, announced that he is giving highway authorities £180 million in transport supplementary grant next year, an increase of almost 10 per cent. This money helps to pay for road projects with more than local importance. Mr Moore is also approving 70 new road schemes costing

£350 million whose cost will be shared between local and central government.

In spite of the bonuses for councils, Mr Ridley insisted average rate increases should be only 1.2 per cent, below the rate of inflation.

While Mr Ridley gave details of the increases, his officials were yesterday informing 20 high-spending authorities, all but one Labour-controlled, what their rate must be next year.

The authorities, with percentage change in rate between 1986-87 and 1987-88 in brackets, are: Sheffield (4.79), Gateshead (9.29), Newcastle-upon-Tyne (5.09), North Tyneside (7.10), Camden (1.45), Greenwich (4.03), Hackney (11.83), Islington (13.47), Lambeth (10.36), Lewisham (7.29), Southwark (8.03), Tower Hamlets, which is Liberal-controlled, (9.94), Brent (6.63), Haringey (6.02), Hounslow (0.59), Newham (26.40), Middlesbrough (7.18), Brighton (38.66), Basildon (0.17), and Thamesdown (0.88).

Parliament, page 4

Life for murder of girl

Gary Taken was sentenced yesterday to custody for life at the Central Criminal Court after his conviction for the murder of Tessa Howden, aged 19, as she lay in her bed (Stewart Trender writes).

Taken, aged 20, was said to have been obsessed with the girl who lived near him at Selodon, Surrey, and he attacked her after breaking into her home in the dead of night. Her parents heard nothing but discovered their daughter's body the next day.

After the case Det Supt Paul Richards, who led the hunt for the girl's killer, said Taken was an "evil man" and a "little pervert who went over the top after eight pints of lager".

See obsession, page 3

Chad officials show off captured Libyans

From Philip Jacobson, Ndjamena

Somewhere in Libya, the family of a young soldier called Abdul Salem wait in anguish to learn of his fate. Abdul was among more than 100 prisoners of war put on show here by the Chadian authorities yesterday, most of them captured during the fierce clash at the northern oasis of Fadaoume two weeks ago.

His name was called out by an official in the auditorium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a slight, dark young man in a shabby green uniform raised his hand.

Abdul appeared to be in good shape, unlike several of his comrades wincing in pain as they squatted in three rows on a bare stage, gazing into the television lights with blank, resigned faces.

In front of them, on a field stretcher, lay a small motionless figure still deep in shock from his wounds. There was an audible gasp from the audience of diplomats and local dignitaries when they saw how terribly his face had been burned.

From the moment the long file of prisoners had shuffled barefoot onto the stage, one hand on the shoulder of the man in front, it was clear that his would be one of those demeaning occasions when journalists become willingly enough caught up in a propaganda exercise.

Some of the Chadian troops who had fought at Fadaoume were present in their native camouflage outfits, quietly regarding the beaten and dispirited foe.

Although all the captives



Police, fire and ambulance officers carry a pregnant woman to hospital from an RAF helicopter in Newcastle, Tyne and Wear. The helicopter, which also carried three sick patients, was forced to land twice because of snow storms.

Jubilant mood hits Tory MPs

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Conservative MPs were cock-a-hoop at Westminster yesterday as a steady easterly breeze built up on only the second day back at Westminster after the Christmas recess.

First the Chancellor renewed his commitment to cut tax if he possibly can in this year's Budget. Then they were cheered by new opinion poll figures. Government announcements of increased rate support grant and swift ministerial action to trigger extra heating payments for the elderly.

A Harris opinion poll for TV-am yesterday gave support for the parties as Conservatives 42 per cent, Labour 37 per cent, Alliance 20 per cent and others 1 per cent.

It was the first time that the Conservatives had scored 42 per cent support since Mr Kinnock became the Labour party leader.

Tory MPs had already been delighted at the weekend by news of a Gallup poll showing only a 1.9 per cent swing to Labour in the 131 target marginal seats. But this news was offset somewhat by another Harris poll in *The Observer* showing Labour with a 35 per cent lead in Green.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Extreme cold could freeze human flesh, RAF warns

By David Cross

The bitterly cold weather, accompanied by more snow-falls and chill winds, strengthened its grip on all parts of the country yesterday with weathermen forecasting more of the same until the weekend at least.

The Meteorological Office said last night that a biting north-east airstream would affect all areas today with further outbreaks of snow in some southern and eastern districts. Temperatures would remain at or below freezing point everywhere.

A spokesman at RAF Wittering's met office in Cambridgeshire said that the wind chill factor would bring temperatures down to minus

25 deg C in some areas, cold enough to freeze human flesh. British Gas reported that a record 11,000 million cubic feet of gas had been sent out to customers over a 24-hour period, 15 per cent more than the highest recorded figure, and the Central Electricity Generating Board said that power stations were being stretched to the limit. Voltage was reduced by 3 per cent last night as demand reached a new peak, and electricity chiefs warned that breakdowns in generators could trigger power cuts.

As the snow moved westwards from the South-east to blanket other areas, Kent and Essex were again the counties which suffered most from the Arctic conditions. For the second day running road and rail commuters were advised to stay at home unless their journeys were really necessary. In Hampshire police were told to keep a special watch on old people to prevent them dying from hypothermia.

A spokesman for British Rail Southern Region said that conditions on lines into Kent were appalling. One train packed with passengers and trapped by a snowdrift since Monday night at Bearsted, near Maidstone, was finally freed yesterday afternoon.

At Chatham station one girl

was still trying to get home to Wembley after being stranded since the weekend and on the Isle of Sheppey, which had been snowbound since Sunday night, the Army was called in to take urgently needed medical supplies to the local hospital.

The Automobile Association said that the Midway towns were almost cut off by road and on the M25, M3 and M23, parts of which were blocked at times, traffic was restricted to two lanes. Speed restrictions were enforced on motorways in the Midlands and North as goods vehicles littered the snow-covered countryside with frozen diesel pipelines.

Police in Kent said they were horrified by the behaviour of a group of motorists driving on the wrong side of the M20 motorway after crossing the central reservation when their passage was blocked with snow.

Blizzards and snowdrifts on the border between England and Scotland meant that only a handful of Euston to Glasgow trains were able to complete their journeys. The Isles of Scilly were buried under the deepest snowfalls since 1947 and a temperature of minus 13.3 deg C was recorded at the Watnall weather centre which covers Nottinghamshire and

Continued on page 2, col 6

Call to increase student grants

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

An immediate and significant increase in the size of the student grant was called for yesterday in a unanimous report by the Commons Select Committee on Education.

The committee, which has a Conservative majority, says hardship is being experienced by many students and the families who support them.

It claims low grants are preventing students of "academic quality" from pursuing courses to the best of their abilities.

Describing its proposals as "modest", the committee adds that its intention is "not to feathered students but to provide them with adequate resources to benefit fully from the opportunities for study and further development".

Among the committee's other recommendations are a reduction in the contributions parents are expected to make and an increase in the range of courses attracting a mandatory grant.

Sir William van Straubenzee, the committee chairman, refused to reveal how much the committee's proposals would cost. Student grants currently cost £650 million a year.

Despite low grants, the MPs record that there is no evidence that academic achievement has declined and they say the drop-out rate has "fallen rather than risen in recent years".

Noting the Department of Education's estimate that, based on the retail price index,

Continued on page 20, col 5

Dean loses vote on 58p levy

By Tim Jones

Members of Britain's biggest print union, Sogat '82, have delivered a humiliating blow to Miss Brenda Dean, its general secretary, by voting against a special levy of 58p to help sustain its dispute with News International and save it from bankruptcy.

In spite of being told by Miss Dean that the union was financially crippled, the members voted by 51,187 to 44,265 - a majority of 6,922 - against a six-month levy designed to bring in £119,000 a week and more than £3 million by July. Only 56 per cent of the membership voted.

The union's national executive will now meet within the next few days to consider whether to continue with the

Continued on page 20, col 1

Branson's balloon venture

Mr Richard Branson, the airline and pop music entrepreneur, plans to cross the Atlantic this summer in the world's largest hot air balloon.

As he revealed the £750,000 project yesterday, he was challenged to a race by a rival British balloonist, Mr Douglas Cameron.

Page 20

Defence chief

Mr Michael Mates will preside for the first time today as chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Defence after a behind-the-scenes squabble.

Page 4

HK governor

Dr David Wilson, the Mandarin scholar widely credited with having sealed the sovereignty agreement over Hong Kong, is to be the colony's next Governor.

Page 10

IN PART 2

Petrol up

Shell and BP petrol prices rose by about 6p a gallon from midnight, taking four star to 175.5p, in line with the increases already announced by Esso and Mobil.

Opec pact smashed, page 22

Pound slumps

The pound fell to a record low against the strong German mark, dashing hopes of an early cut in base rates in Britain.

Page 21

Going north

Vivian Richards, the West Indies captain, who was recently sacked by Somerset, has given up county cricket and has signed instead for Rishton, who play in the Lancashire League.

Page 40

Conner wins

Dennis Conner found the perfect reply to the barbs from Chris Dickson, the New Zealand skipper, by easily winning the first race of the Challenger finals.

Page 40

Portfolio Gold

There is £2,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount as there was no winner yesterday.

Portfolio list, page 25; how to play, information service, page 20.

Home News	2-5	Law Report	25
Overseas	7-10	Letters	17
Arts	18-20	Obituary	18
Archaeology	18	Parliament	4
Books	18	Property	25-29
Business	21-24	Science	18
Cricket	14-18	Sport Reports	37
Crosswords	14-18	Sport	35-38, 40
Diary	16	Theatre, etc	10
Events	14-16	TV & Radio	39
Features	14-16	Weather	18
		Wills	18



Directors' future in balance

By Lawrence Lever

The future of two more Guinness directors is hanging in the balance and will be discussed at today's crucial board meeting of the troubled brewing and leisure group.

Dr Arthur Frier and Mr Thomas Ward were both named by Mr Oliver Roux, the former finance director, in a letter dealing with the support given to Guinness's share price during the bid for Distillers.

It was this letter which precipitated Mr Saunders standing down as chairman. At the same time Mr Christopher Reeves, the chief executive of Morgan Grenfell, advisers to Guinness during the bid, is expected to be giving evidence to the government inspectors later this week.

'No whitewash', page 23

Continued, page 23

French photographer kidnapped in Beirut

From Juan Carlos Genucio, Beirut

M Roger Auque, a French freelance photographer aged 31, was kidnapped yesterday from his home in Muslim west Beirut, where he had returned after photographing Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, on his latest mission to secure the release of hostages.

He was accompanied on his return to his flat, at the top of a six-storey building in Raouche, by his Lebanese driver and by M Paul Marchand, a reporter who, with M Auque, constituted the entire French press corps in west Beirut.

M Marchand was accosted by two armed men as he waited for M Auque to get more equipment. One gunman said: "You speak English, you come. You don't come, I kill you." But the reporter escaped after a shot was fired near his foot.



M Auque: Met kidnappers as he left the elevator.

'Creative accounting' techniques exposed

Griffiths 2 + 2 = 5

"Every company in the country is fiddling its profits..." says Ian Griffiths, accountant, author and journalist. "Any accountant worth his salt will confirm that this is no wild assertion. Such phrases as 'cooking the books' and 'fiddling the accounts' may raise eyebrows where they cause people to infer that there is something illegal about this pastime. In fact, it is totally legitimate. It is creative accounting."

Creative accounting ferrets out - and uses every opportunity to adjust the accounts so that the final profit figure is more or less what the directors and accountants want.

The best places to look for the latest legal cooking-the-books techniques are the largest public companies - whose published accounts are anything from lightly griddled to thoroughly roasted - but never raw. Often they need to report larger profits to satisfy shareholders. Or they may prefer to reduce their profits this year and tuck the extra away for use in a leaner year. Of course they usually need to minimise their tax bills. And maybe reduce apparent borrowings, or beef up the value of their assets.

In his new book *Creative Accounting*, Ian Griffiths shows how it can be done. And is done, by the most reputable companies. You will discover how to expand expenses - pilfer the pension fund - tamper with taxation - get the best from stocks, debentures, current

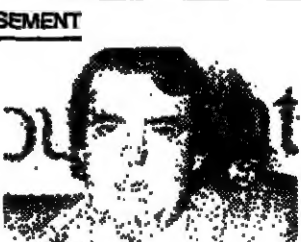
brought down by a missile in 1983. In passable English, he told us that he had ejected and wandered for three days in the desert before encountering a Chadian army patrol.

He looked pretty fit, and when we asked how he and the others had been treated in captivity replied politely: "Well enough, thank you."

It was encouraging to learn from Muhammad that the longer term captives had been visited by representatives of the Red Cross office in Ndjamena, and were allowed to send letters home.

The Chadian authorities maintain adamantly that, unlike their enemy, they respect the Geneva Convention. They assured us that the most recent Libyan prisoners will be similarly treated.

Tribesmen tip balance, page 8



Griffiths 2 + 2 = 5

liabilities, cash - even how to massage your overall turnover figure. You do not need to be an accountant to understand this book. All the latest and most ingenious schemes for manipulating accounts are so lucidly explained that you can quickly see whether, and how, you could apply each opportunity to your company. Even the best accountant cannot have quite the same keen interest in the choice of your final reported profit (and hence your tax bill) as you do. This book allows you to take more of the critical decision-making into your own hands - and decide for yourself how you would like various transactions treated.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Paper locks out journalists

Most of the 90 journalists employed by the *Belfast Telegraph*, the largest of Northern Ireland's three daily newspapers, were locked out by their management yesterday for refusing training in new technology production methods, despite having obtained an interim injunction from the High Court, in Belfast, that they be permitted to work normally.

A subsequent application by the company, a member of Thomson Regional Newspapers Group, that the High Court should overturn the injunction was dismissed, but journalists were still prevented from entering the building when they sought to return to work.

The journalists were asked individually to sign undertakings that they would begin training on the new machines when they arrived at work normally yesterday. Most refused to do so and were physically prevented from entering the building.

Ulster 'middle way'

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday appealed to middle-ranking members of Ulster's political parties to begin inter-party talks without involving party leaders, ministers or government representatives.

Low level talks might "break the sterility and the policy of abstention and obstruction which we've seen in the past year. All that has happened has damaged the interests, the economy and the good name of the province," he said.

Condemning the year-long protest by Unionists which involved abstention from Parliament and the continuous adjournment of many local councils, he said: "The lessons of the last year must ensure that we don't see a further year of sterility."

Factories in gear

Britain produced more than one million cars for the second year consecutive in 1986, but output was down 3 per cent on 1985, at 1,018,000. Despite rising production from Ford and Vauxhall's plants, the reduced output from Austin Rover and the virtual demise of Peugeot Talbot's Peugeot car exports to Iran caused the overall drop.

After the production of 266,000 commercial vehicles in 1985, output slipped sharply by 14 per cent to 228,800, close to the depressed level of 1984.

Art in the corridors

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, evidently believes that the corridors of power have a rather dreary image.

He has come up with a scheme for brightening up government departments by exhibiting promising work by young British artists.

Mr Luce unveiled his latest initiative last night when opening an exhibition of British art in the twentieth century at the Royal Academy. He said art deserved more encouragement.

Barlinnie charge

The man at the centre of the recent rooftop siege at Barlinnie Prison was accused yesterday of assaulting a prison officer the day the trouble started.

Samuel Ralston, aged 23, described as a prisoner at Barlinnie, appeared in private at Glasgow Sheriff Court. It is alleged that on January 5 in the dining room of "B" hall, he assaulted prison officer William McGiln and struck him repeatedly on the head and body with chairs, to his injury.

Mr Paul Langan, his solicitor, made no plea on behalf of Ralston, of Longstone Road, Cranhill, Glasgow, who was remanded in custody for further inquiries.

Aspiring authors win Arts Council backing

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council is planning to increase its support for aspiring authors, following criticism that it has been neglecting literature in recent years.

A policy statement by the council yesterday announced that a full-time director of literature will be appointed next month and listed a series of projects for encouraging new work.

The director's post was abolished a year ago as part of an internal review. The statement coincided with a report by the National Campaign for the Arts which said writers were suffering from a substantial cut in Arts Council grants.

The campaign noted that the council's support for literature had fallen from almost £1 million in 1984-85 to £488,000 this year. It is to be further reduced to £462,000 in the next financial year.

Mr Luke Rittner, secretary general of the council, said he was aware that many people believed it had been "short-

changing" contemporary authors.

However its draft policy had brought "a breath of fresh air" through its literature department, and it was now committed to a vigorous programme of activities.

Mr Rittner said the council was committed to lobbying for a National Literature Centre on London's South Bank, promoting children's literature, supporting book fairs and specialist distributors, giving priority to writers-in-residence schemes and considering joint ventures with commercial publishers.

The recent cut-backs stemmed from the council's regional development policy, introduced in 1984, which projected central funding being replaced by increased support at regional level.

In its statement, the council admitted the results had been disappointing, adding that there clearly remained a need for a national body to initiate research and fund developments.

Kazuo Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki in 1954 and moved to England with his family when he was six. He was educated at the University of Kent, where he read English

and Philosophy, and then went to do his Master's degree at the University of East Anglia.

His first novel, *A Pale View of Hills*, was awarded the Winifred Holtby Prize by the Royal Society of Literature.

In *An Artist of the Floating World*, an ageing, once famous painter in Nagasaki looks back over his life with bewilderment and increasing guilt, assessing his career that coincided with the rise of Japanese militarism and ended with the bomb.

It is about art and politics. Ambition and integrity, past

Ulster MP accused of encouraging mob terror in Republic

By Richard Ford.

The deputy leader of Ulster's Democratic Unionist Party was accused yesterday of participating in "hijacking" a border village in the Irish Republic during a display of mob rule and terror.

Peter Robinson, the MP for East Belfast, is alleged to have aided and abetted a "loyalist" crowd, armed with cudgels and dressed in paramilitary style uniforms, during a takeover in which two policemen were seriously assaulted and malicious damage was caused to vehicles and property.

Mr Robinson, who had been wearing a "bomber jacket" and jeans under a weatherproof suit, was arrested as he ran away after a policeman had been kicked and beaten by part of a crowd of 150, the Special Criminal Court in Dublin was told.

He denied assault or causing malicious damage and said he was at Clontarf, Co Monaghan, to observe an operation aimed at assessing the level of security on the border.

Mr Robinson, aged 38, was said to have signed a document at Monaghan Police Station which said: "Police Robinson, for God and Ulster."

The mob, it was claimed, was part of a well-planned operation aimed at provoking and taunting the Republic's security forces into action, and inciting fear among the village's inhabitants.

Officers of the Gardaí, the Republic's police force, fired a volley of shots to disperse the

mob, which arrived by road during the early hours of the morning, and was drilled along the village's main street.

As the mob fled, Mr Robinson was detained. Fragments of glass from the windscreen and headlights of three damaged vehicles were found on his clothes, the court was told.

The court was surrounded by armed police and soldiers yesterday as Mr Robinson, accompanied by his wife, Iris, and Mr Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, arrived for the trial.

The MP pleaded not guilty to four charges of assaulting Gardaí, one of unlawful assembly and six of damaging vehicles, roadsides and a loud speaker during the incident last August.

Mr Kevin Haugh, for the prosecution, said the mob took over the village and a human barrier was formed to turn back approaching vehicles. The majority of the crowd were dressed in black balaclavas and anoraks and were armed with cudgels. They dubbed "Ulster has Awakened" on the Protestant school and police station.

Mr Haugh said the objective had been to provoke a confrontation by behaving in a "lawless and flagrant manner" to test the reaction of the security forces to the invasion and hijacking of a village. It was an attempt to render the Gardaí powerless in the face of this mob and was intended to incite fear and alarm among the inhabitants in the village.

He said the state did not

seek to prove that Mr Robinson by himself actually committed the assaults or caused the malicious damage. But he said the accused "was acting in concert with the mob", which was part of a planned operation.

Even by his presence, not as a disinterested observer, he was aiding, abetting and encouraging the entire operation. He was somewhere in the heart of it," Mr Haugh said.

Gardaí and their families living behind the police station were terrified.

Sergeant Peter Hunt told the court that he drove to the village after receiving reports of about 150 people arriving in the early morning.

Along with other officers he approached the crowd, but uniformed Gardaí were attacked when they left their cars. Officers then fired a volley of shots from a sub machine gun and a revolver to disperse the crowd. Sgt Hunt grabbed Mr Robinson and detained him.

When asked to give an account of his movements, the MP said: "I was observing the operation aimed at assessing the level of security on the border, which Mr Tom King and Mr Peter Barry say is the best it has ever been."

"I travelled for at least 1½ hours along narrow roads and never saw any members of the security forces on either side of the border until Clontarf. I did not engage in either malicious damage or assault on anyone. I was merely observing."

The trial continues today.

NHS gets Aids overseer

By Jill Sherman

The National Health Service has appointed its first regional Aids coordinator to help to prevent the spread of the disease in the Mersey region.

Mr Dominic Davies, who took up his post last week, will coordinate all local publicity and educational material about Aids and act as a liaison officer between voluntary groups in the area.

Mr Davies, aged 27, a former social and youth worker and training consultant at Leicester University, said: "I intend to initiate a youth campaign to get information about safe sex to young people from when they first become sexually active."

Although the region has had only eight cases of Aids so far, it started a needle exchange scheme for drug addicts and distributes free condoms to addicts and prostitutes.

● In Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a doctor told an inquiry yesterday that the deaths of two men who died of Aids after being injected with the blood-clotting agent, factor eight, highlighted a campaign for compensation for families of haemophiliacs with the virus.

Dr Peter Jones said Aids "was a tragedy of modern medicine" which had infected about 60 per cent of severe haemophiliacs before it was detected in 1983.

Verdicts of death by natural causes were recorded on Raymond Pearson, aged 54, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, who died of stomach cancer last February, and Stephen Longstaff, aged 20, of Harlepool, Cleveland, who died of mouth cancer last April.

● Two former London property developers, Mr Peter Arthur and Mr Jonathan Lister, are setting up a private blood bank, offering to store the blood of those who fear contracting Aids through transfusions, for a one-off fee of £440 and an annual £160.

● Tests at the Pasteur Institute in Paris have shown that benzalkonium-chloride, a spermicide contained in the contraceptive product, Pharmedex, is capable of inactivating the Aids virus.

A leading British Aids specialist, Dr Anthony Pinching, of St Mary's Hospital, London, said the French claims were encouraging but clinical tests were needed to verify the claims.

It points out that while the Secretary of State for Education can "exhort" authorities to act, his statutory powers are restricted.

The figures suggest that local authorities are employing about 10,000 teachers

Kinnock dismisses arts spokesman

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday dismissed Mr Norman Buchan as Labour's frontbench spokesman on the arts after a dispute over the Labour leader's watering down of his party's proposed new ministry of arts and media.

Mr Kinnock's concern that the department would be depicted as a "ministry of culture on the Goebbels model" was a factor in his decision, Mr Buchan, aged 64, the Tribune MP for Paisley South said.

The dispute centres on a policy statement narrowly approved by the party's home policy committee on Monday. Mr Buchan, an old friend of Mr Kinnock's, said the statement flouted party conference policy by denying the new ministry powers over the broadcasting media, leaving them with the Home Office and Department of Trade and Industry.

He was angered also by its failure to accord Cabinet status to the new post.

Later, Mr Kinnock appointed Mr Mark Fisher, aged 42, MP for Stoke-on-Trent Central, as Mr Buchan's replacement. A former college principal, he is a member of the hard left Campaign Group of Labour MPs.

Mr Buchan was dismissed after a "cool" four-minute meeting at which he made clear his opposition to the new approach. He later explained that he could not go back to his supporters in the arts world and the media and press unions and admit that all he had been saying over the past three years had been untrue.

The new policy document meant that the cornerstone of Labour's approach to the arts and the media had been "blown out of the window" because vital regulatory powers over broadcasting, wave-lengths and other legal matters remained the province of government departments seen as agents of "control and oppression."

Mr Kinnock said in a statement: "I regret that Norman Buchan could not accept a document which is entirely consistent with party policy and which will ensure a great extension of access and opportunity, and an improvement in the quantity and quality of performing and broadcast arts in Britain."

Mr Buchan said he suspected there were two reasons for Mr Kinnock's opposition to the shake-up, which, according to the Labour leader, will have "massive powers" to formulate a new arts strategy, create jobs and increase public investment.

"He is afraid it would be identified as a ministry of culture on the Goebbels model. But in that case he shouldn't have said giving it 'massive powers', because he's not," Mr Kinnock was also anxious not to upset the "integrity and solidarity" of his Shadow Cabinet, Mr Buchan claimed.

Surplus teachers have cost £350m says audit

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Local education authorities in England have spent £350 million over the past four years employing surplus teachers, according to a report published yesterday by the National Audit Office.

The report blames the "unwillingness" of local councils to carry through government plans to reduce the size of the teaching force as the number of school-age children falls.

It points out that while the Secretary of State for Education can "exhort" authorities to act, his statutory powers are restricted.

The figures suggest that local authorities are employing about 10,000 teachers

and present. And it is drawn as delicately as a Japanese water-colour. Japan, it seems, whatever mistakes it may have made in the past, has now another chance to make a better go of things.

"One can only wish these young people well," muses the old painter, coming to terms with the world earthquake he has lived through.

The judges describe the book as: "A little masterpiece. Though clearly set in an alien culture, there's much about the place of an artist in any society."

Record cold spell and snowstorms



Skiing to work in Glasgow and a long bread queue in Wrotham, Kent.



Big freeze extends its grip

Continued from page 1

Derbyshire - the lowest for 23 years.

In Fife, nearly 6,000 workers were sent home for the day when snow forced the closure of the Royal Navy's dockyard at Rosyth. Edinburgh airport was closed and flights to Glasgow and Aberdeen were interrupted to allow snow ploughs to clear the runways.

The Duke of Edinburgh cancelled a trip from Norfolk to Brussels for a World Wildlife Fund concert because of deep snow at RAF Marham near Sandringham.

● Police were called to hundreds of homes to rescue pensioners yesterday as emergency services were flooded with reports of elderly people dying as a result of the freezing conditions.

A widow, aged 72, died in hospital after a rescue attempt set off by a transatlantic phonecall. Mrs Evelyn Randall was found semi-conscious by police on the landing of her home in Beaulieu Road, Christchurch, Dorset.

They had been alerted at midnight by Mrs Randall's son Brian, who is working in San Carlos, California.

● A border collie sniffer dog found a man aged 18 propped against a snowbank on Ulster's highest mountain, the 2,790 ft Slieve Donard.

"He was almost literally frozen solid, propped against the snowbank, still conscious and his feet were in a particularly bad way," Mr Neil Powell, of Mourne Mountains civilian rescue team, said.

Red-tape love story ends

A young cancer sufferer has died at a hospice in Warwick weeks after he and his girl friend were given special permission to move into a council flat.

Gary Walker, aged 22, and Elizabeth Horler, aged 23, met at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, where she nursed him. Coventry City Council cut through red tape to find the couple a ground-floor flat, which they moved into just before Christmas.

Continued from page 1

which, where a by-election is imminent.

The Tories were also cheered by Mr Kinnock's announcement that he would almost certainly reverse any tax cuts and by Mr Giles Radice's pledge that Labour would end grammar schools within two years of coming to office and also end the charitable tax status of independent schools.

Mr Lawson, speaking on

Power cuts feared as freeze-up bites

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Parts of Britain were in danger of being blacked out last night as the Central Electricity Generating Board admitted that the nation's power stations were "pushed to the limit" by the effects of the severe weather.

During the early evening peak period, the board was expecting demand to exceed 49,000 megawatts, almost 3,000 megawatts higher than the last record demand which occurred on January 17, 1985, when the country was in the grip of the miners' strike.

Last night's huge demand for electricity forced the CEGB to insist that the 130 big industrial consumers on so-called interruptible electricity supplies shut down non-essential machinery and other equipment between 4.30pm and 6pm.

The situation was aggravated by an initial lack of power flowing through the 2760 million Anglo-French cross-channel cable, opened last year and designed to allow both countries to take advantage of differing peak demand periods for electricity.

British Gas said it was facing its highest demand for 50 years. In the 24 hours up to 6am yesterday, it sent out 11,027 million cubic feet of gas, 20 per cent more than the last one-day peak last February. A small proportion of interruptible customers had been asked to cut down.

Tens of thousands of workers in shops, offices and factories yesterday took heed of advice from local authorities, the police and motoring organizations and stayed at home. Tyne and Wear and Kent were particularly badly hit and there were reports of factories planning to close down if the cold spell persisted.

The Confederation of British Industry said it had had no reports of specific companies facing problems other than staffing or non-arrival of staff, or transport difficulties.

A hurried survey of the country carried out by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce demonstrated how a few days of icy weather can cripple industry.

Glasgow: Ten inches of snow and the local Chamber of Commerce closed down be-

cause staff failed to arrive. There was fierce criticism of council snow-clearing.

Edinburgh: Public transport badly hit, with shops and banks closing early.

Leeds: Six inches of snow but most people getting to work.

Birmingham: Some exporters failing to clear consignments because of transport delays.

Nottingham and Northampton: Snow thickening and many staff late to work.

Tyne and Wear: The local chamber said the region "laid down at 2 pm" as workers rushed to get home.

Norwich and Norfolk: Only a quarter of employees shut-

Panic buying of fresh, frozen and canned fruit and vegetables and bread in anticipation of shortages, was reported yesterday.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau said that vegetables such as carrots, leeks, brussels sprouts, cabbages and cauliflowers were likely to become scarce and more expensive by the end of the week if the freezing conditions continued.

There should be no problems with potatoes and fruit from stores.

agreed to get to work through the 12 inches of snow.

London and the south east: About a third of commuters were late to work and some city centre shops began to run out of goods, particularly vegetables.

Kent: Reported to be in "absolute chaos" with telephone lines down and industry and commerce almost at a standstill.

Insurance companies were unable yesterday to quantify what the freezing weather might mean to them in claims. Until the thaw occurs, they will have no idea how many frozen pipes are cracked.

The Association of British Insurers, which covers 90 per cent of insurance companies, said the worst winter since its records began in 1968 was 1981-82, when claims arising from Arctic conditions in December and January, followed by flooding, came to £308 million.

Jubilant mood hits Tory MPs

BBC Radio yesterday, said that he did not know if he would be able to reduce tax levels this year from the present 29 per cent standard rate, but emphasized that that remained his objective.

Most MPs are convinced that increased oil prices following OPEC action and the continuing high tax receipts from the High Street shopping boom have given the Chancellor room to make tax cuts of at least 2p in the

pound.

Tory MPs had been uneasy over the working of the Government's new budget benefit scheme.

But after an emergency meeting just before lunch yesterday between Mrs Thatcher and social security ministers, it was announced during Question Time that the Government was temporarily suspending its own system and promising payments this week.

Japanese wins Whitbread prize

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor

This year's judges, who included the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Michael Havers and Mr Ken Livingstone, arrived at their impossible decision between quite different categories far more quickly than last year. The preliminary postal voting gave the winner an overall majority, without need for recourse to increasingly desperate proportional ballots while everybody waited for dinner.

Kazuo Ishiguro was born in Nagasaki in 1954 and moved to England with his family when he was six. He was educated at the University of Kent, where he read English

and Philosophy, and then went to do his Master's degree at the University of East Anglia.

His first novel, *A Pale View of Hills*, was awarded the Winifred Holtby Prize by the Royal Society of Literature.

In *An Artist of the Floating World*, an ageing, once famous painter in Nagasaki looks back over his life with bewilderment and increasing guilt, assessing his career that coincided with the rise of Japanese militarism and ended with the bomb.

It is about art and politics. Ambition and integrity, past

Man cleared of threat against Wapping lorry

An unemployed man accused of using threatening behaviour against a TNT lorry delivering to the News International plant at Wapping, east London, had the charge dismissed yesterday.

Thames magistrates found there was no case to answer against Dennis Raynes, aged 31, of Peabody Buildings, Stepney, east London, but bound him over to keep the peace. He had denied throwing an item, causing the lorry to swerve in Commercial Road, Stepney, on October 19, 1986.

Andrew Holmes, aged 27, a print worker, of Mazenwood

Avenue, Kilburn, north London, was remanded on conditional bail until January 20 on charges of maliciously wounding and assaulting two police officers on December 14 at The Highway, Stepney. He must not go near the picket line.

Six other people were remanded on bail for charges relating to the Wapping dispute, including obstructing police officers.

● Glasgow libraries are to lift their ban on *The Times* after city councillors were warned by officials yesterday that their action was illegal.

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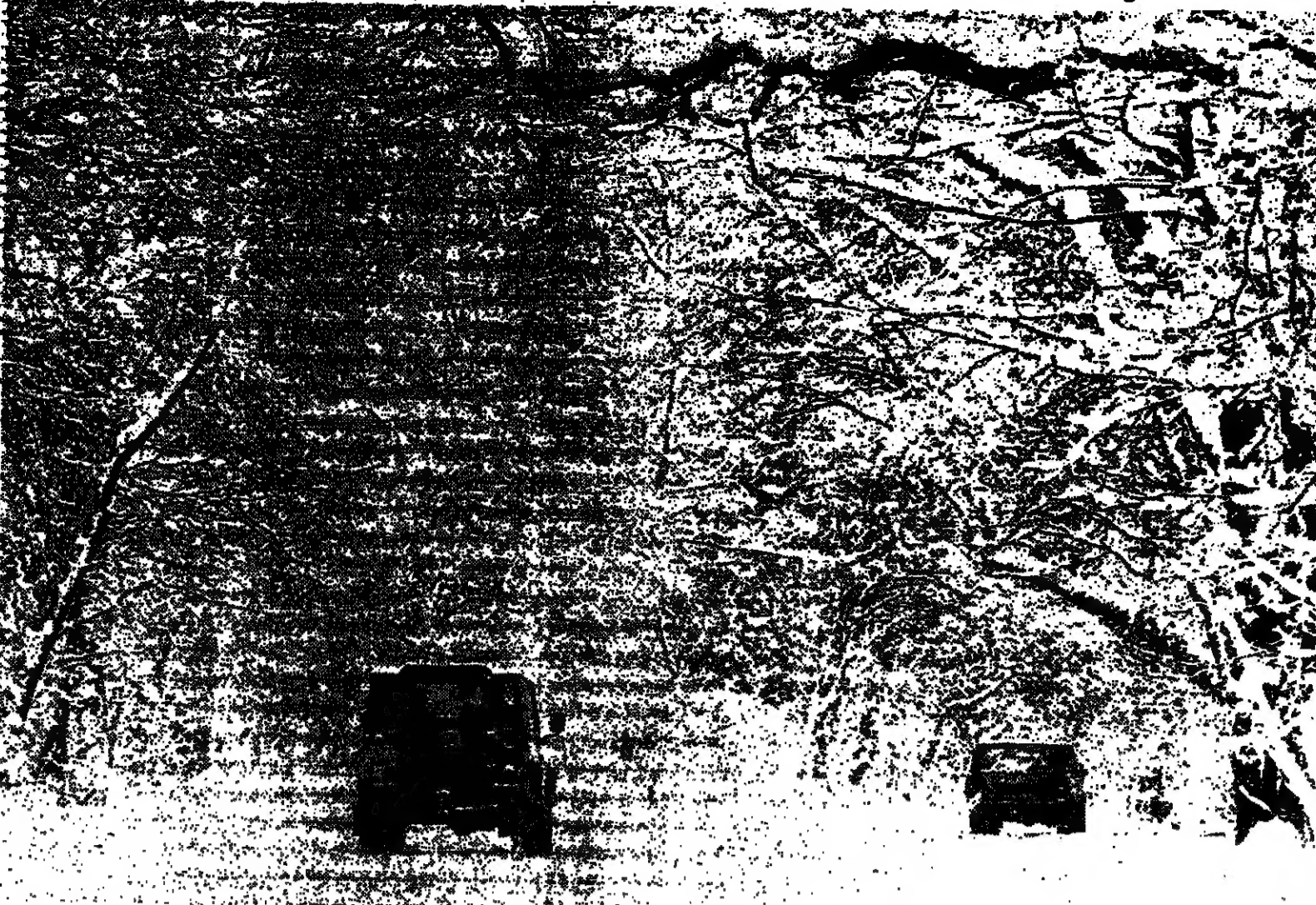
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Winter beauty at Tadworth, Surrey (Photograph: Harry Kerr) while a lion shelters from the cold at Windsor Safari Park (Photograph: John Rogers).

Sex-obsessed killer of Tessa is given life term in custody

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

A sexually-obsessed youth, who attacked and murdered a teenage girl in her bed while her parents slept, was sentenced to custody for life yesterday at the Central Criminal Court.

After the conviction of Gary Taken, aged 20, an unemployed scaffolder, of Selsdon, Surrey, the parents of Miss Tessa Howden, aged 19, were left with the horror of the scene in her bedroom when they awoke on the morning after her death last January.

The body of Miss Howden, who had been sexually assaulted, slashed 11 times and strangled, was lying propped up in bed when her father, Mr David Howden, brought in a cup of tea.

Four days later, detectives were led to Taken's home, a quarter of a mile from the scene, after fingerprints found in the girl's blood were matched with prints taken from him after a conviction for damaging a car. Sunglasses belonging to Taken were also found in the bedroom.

Detectives who searched Taken's home in Weather Way, Selsdon, found more than 90 items of women's underwear, which he had stolen from washing lines in his area. They also found a black and white swimsuit taken from the bedroom of the murdered girl.

The court was told that

since childhood Taken had spied on his parents having sexual intercourse, through a hole he had bored in the loft floor. He had drilled another spy hole in the toilet wall. At school he was often the butt of jokes because of his sexual fantasies, and would spend hours in Little Heath Woods, near his home, to spy on courting couples. He would also follow girls and secretly photograph them.

He had a series of girlfriends but was obsessed with Miss Howden, whom he had admired from afar since he was a boy.

The court was told he spied on her during the day while she worked as a promotions assistant for the *Croydon Advertiser* newspaper, and at night and at weekends he watched her with her boy friend. Taken spent hours outside her home in Foxearth Spur, Selsdon, and stole a back door key.

The attack on Miss Howden occurred in the early hours of January 10 last year. After drinking eight pints of lager with a friend at a discotheque, Taken had tried to open the back door with his stolen key, but found the door was bolted. A fanlight window was open and he was slim enough to squeeze through after removing pots and pans in his way.

Miss Howden's parents were asleep while their daughter

was subjected to a horrifying sexual attack. Her neck was slashed and she had wounds to her hands, inflicted as she fought for her life.

Taken, who was probably armed with a flick-knife he often carried, silenced her by gripping her around her neck and mouth and then strangled her with her own tights. He made his escape through the girl's first floor bedroom window.

On remand, he tried to save himself from jail by pretending that he had been Miss Howden's secret lover.

He told his mother, who was convinced he was innocent, that Miss Howden had let him into her bedroom. They had intercourse and when he crept away afterwards the girl was fit and well. He claimed she must have been killed by an intruder who entered the house after he left. Taken had nothing to say yesterday when the jury returned a guilty verdict.

Sir James Miskin, the Recorder of London, passed sentence in accordance with policy for offenders aged between 17 and 20, who can receive the same maximum penalty as adults.

Taken received "custody for life". The judge said he was unable to make a recommendation on the length of time he should serve, as he would in the case of an adult.

Killer gas explosion 'was negligence'

By Ian Smith

The methane gas explosion which killed 16 people and injured 28 others at the Abbeystead pumping station in Lancashire in 1984 was caused by negligence and bad design, it was claimed yesterday during a High Court case to determine liability.

Thirty-eight of the dead and injured were villagers from St Michael's of Wyre, who were on a parish council visit to ally farms of flooding in the Wyre valley. The other six were employees of the North West Water Authority.

A lethal level of the colourless, odourless but highly explosive methane gas had

built up in the underground chamber, the court at Lancaster Castle has heard.

When one of the visitors lit a cigarette the valve house was torn apart in an explosion which was heard several miles away.

Thirty 2½ ton concrete roof beams were thrown upwards through tons of topsoil, and collapsed into the devastated valve house below, trapping and crushing to death several of the victims. The dead were 11 men, four women and a boy, aged 11.

Survivors and executors of the estates of those who died have spent £365,000 to bring the case, which will decide whether legal liability will be

borne by the water authority, Binnie and Partners, who designed the building, and Edmund Nuttall Ltd, the builders.

Mr Daniel Brennan, QC, representing the 31 plaintiffs, said damages may be as high as £2 million if liability is proved.

The court heard how methane gas had entered a tunnel and as the methane level rose it seeped into the pumping station.

Mr Brennan said that the plaintiffs were rightly asking if this disaster could have been avoided if all reasonable skill and care had been exercised in design, construction and use. "That the disaster was not

avoided is due to the negligence of the defendants - the plaintiffs allege that each defendant was negligent."

There were two central questions: was the risk from methane gas reasonably foreseeable and should the tunnel leading to the valve house have been directly vented into the open air? If the answer to both was yes then safety measures were inadequate.

The hearing, which is expected to last 11 weeks, has been funded through loans to survivors and victims' relatives by Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council, and by legal aid and money from villagers. The case continues today.

Shooting in Brixton 'tragic, not criminal'

By Michael McCarthy

The jury in the Brixton shooting trial was reminded yesterday that an event that ends in tragedy is not necessarily a crime.

Mr Anthony Hidden, QC, in his closing speech for the defence, asked the six men and six women to bear this in mind in judging whether Inspector Douglas Lovelock was guilty of unlawfully and maliciously wounding Mrs Dorothy "Cherry" Groce, the innocent woman he shot when leading a raid on her home. The aim of the raid was to detain Mrs Groce's son, Michael, who was wanted on firearms charges.

The shooting left Mrs Groce, aged 39, who has seven children, crippled for life, and led to the Brixton riots of September 1985.

Inspector Lovelock, aged 44, a policeman for 22 years, has pleaded not guilty. He has told the court that the shooting was an accident caused by him "tensing" with his finger on the trigger, as Mrs Groce suddenly came upon him.

Mr Hidden told the jury at the Central Criminal Court: "Tragedy is the only word that can be applied to what happened that morning, but because an event occurs and because tragedy follows, it does not mean that a crime has been committed."

"In the less than a second that it took to send the shot on its way from that gun, there was not the conversion of a decent, honest, hard-working mind into a criminal mind."

Mr Lovelock had followed his firearms training in every aspect until the shooting itself - when, if it were deliberate, he should have fired two shots, not the single shot.

Mr Richard Du Cann, for the prosecution, told the jury that it would be their duty to convict if they felt that Mr Lovelock had intended to pull the trigger, or if his pointing the gun with his finger on the trigger had been unlawful and unjustifiable.

The judge, Mr Justice Leonard, will sum up today. The jury will retire to consider its verdict on Thursday morning.

First 'intelligent' homes by 1990s

By Robert Matthews

Seven of the biggest names in the European consumer electrical goods market have got together to draw up plans for the first generation of "intelligent homes".

By the 1990s it should be possible to control everything from the evening meal to bedroom heating from the comfort of an armchair.

Dr Kenneth Gray, technical director of Thorn-EMI, which is spearheading the £12 million project, says most of the technology needed to make the average house "intelligent" already exists. Collaboration is necessary to solve the more basic problem of electronic compatibility.

His company has joined forces with GEC, Mullard, Siemens of West Germany, Thomson of France, Philips of the Netherlands, and Electrolux of Sweden in a two-year project to ensure all their products speak the same language.

Until now, electronics companies have designed their products to be used chiefly in isolation. But there is a growing recognition by the industry

that linking together all the electronics in a house could create a big boost for its products, Dr Gray says.

The present differences range from the plugs appliances need, to the inability of microprocessors, controlling them to exchange information.

There is also a risk of all the different communication channels packed into an intelligent house interfering with one another. "We've got to make sure that when you buy a system from a German company to control the heating, it won't switch on your British hi-fi."

Thorn-EMI has built its own test house at its headquarters in Hayes, where communication via radio, infra-red, cable and mains wiring is being investigated.

There is considerable pressure for the European industry to develop standardisation, Dr Gray says, "because if we don't, somebody else will". The Japanese electronics giant, including Mitsubishi and Hitachi, have already reached agreement, and may beat the Europeans.

Activists 'boasted of firebomb'

Masked animal activists held a secret meeting where they boasted they would cause £1 million of damage to a store, Sheffield Crown Court was told yesterday.

They allegedly told Mr David Kavanagh, a journalist: "Make no mistake, we aim to cause £1 million worth of damage to Rackham's within two years unless they get rid of their fur coats."

Seven months later, a firebomb allegedly planted by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) caused £200,000 damage at the store in Sheffield.

Mr Kavanagh, formerly of the *Sheffield Star*, told the court how he was led to the meeting in the city's Ecclesall Woods by one of the accused, Roger Yates.

Mr David Bentley, QC, for the prosecution, alleges that the ALF used firebombs, hammers, acid and crossbows to attack stores in Sheffield, London, Birmingham, Liverpool, and in Scotland.

The defendants are: Kevin Boleyn, of Lintworth Road, Firth Park, Sheffield; Ronald Lee, of Shepherd's Bush Road, west London; Vivienne Smith, of Sterndale Road, Hammersmith, west London; Roger Yates, of Dungen Lane, Liverpool; Brendan McNally and his wife Jennifer, of Kenning Hall Mount, Sheffield. All deny charges of conspiracy to commit arson and criminal damage, and inciting criminal damage.

John Hewson, a retired schoolmaster, of Baslow Road, Tolly, Sheffield, later admitted that a meeting was held by animal activists at his home. Hewson is awaiting sentence after admitting conspiring to steal animals. The trial continues today.



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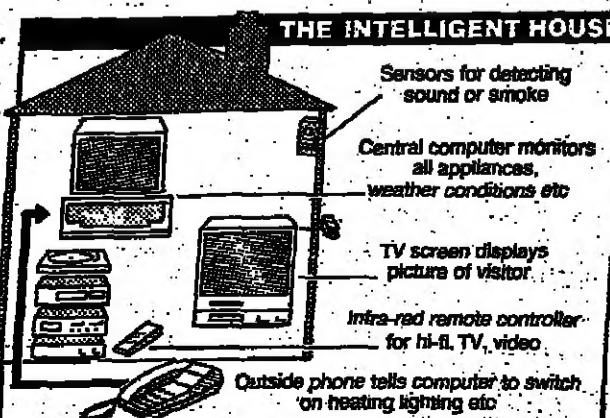
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PARLIAMENT

Labour will hold debate on cold weather payments

An announcement that the £5 severe weather special payment to old people on supplementary benefit would be paid to all in the qualifying group this week did not stop Labour MPs, led by Mr Neil Kinnock, demanding abolition of the present system.

Mr Kinnock announced that the whole of Wednesday's Opposition debate would be on this subject instead of on the North-South divide and the economy.

The announcement that the payment, which is in addition to heating allowance for those old people on supplementary benefit with savings of less than £500, was first made during social services questions by Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, when he said that the Government expected that the trigger point of an average minus 1.5 degrees Celsius would be reached for this week. In view of that firm expectation, the payments would be made for this week.

The Government was determined that vulnerable groups should know where they stood without delay.

Mr Peter Snape (West Bromwich East, Lab): Will she find time for a proper long-term review of severe weather payments, looking particularly at the £500 limit? Does she believe in thrift or not?

Mrs Thatcher: Severe weather payments were brought in under this Government. They are paid out of the top of the heating allowance which amounts to £400 million a year compared with £90 million a year under the previous Government.

The statement by the Minister for Social Security was that it is our firm expectation that the trigger point will be reached throughout the country this week.

The view of that and the unprecedented weather, I wish to make it clear that the extra payment of £5 will be made to everyone in the qualifying groups for this week (Conservative cheer).

I find it encouraging that even Labour MPs expect and receive a higher standard of heating payments for the elderly from a Conservative Government than from a Labour Government.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: The announcement on severe weather payments was welcome (Conservative cheer), but is an admission of the utter incompetence of the present system of heating allowances (Conservative protest).

Yes we welcome anything to help them. It is a hopelessly inadequate way of trying to remove the gross deficiencies of a pathetically bad system, and is recognized as such by the organizations representing old

£5 cash help for this week

The extra severe weather payment of £5 would be made to everyone in the qualifying groups for this week, Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, announced during Commons questions.

He said it was the Government's firm expectation that the trigger point of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius would be reached this week. In view of that and of the exceptionally cold weather, the payments would be made for this week.

Those eligible were householders on supplementary benefit with someone in their family aged 65 or over, chronically sick or disabled, or aged under two.

The Government is determined that vulnerable groups should know where they stand without delay so that they will not be discouraged from heating their homes during this very cold spell.

"It is an unlikely event that not all areas reach the trigger point, action will be taken to validate the payments made."

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said there were pensioners literally starving to death about not being able to pay the money required to heat their homes.

All pensioners should be con-

COLD WEATHER

ident that they had sufficient money throughout the winter months. Pensioners on supplementary benefit should receive £5 a week from mid-December up to March.

Mr Major said the Government was absolutely determined that vulnerable groups should keep warm. That was why he had made the statement.

That was why, for the first time, it had introduced a statutory entitlement to cold weather payments. In these special circumstances, the announcement had been made before the trigger point had been reached so that people might have the confidence to keep warm.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said the announcement was a small relief. Many elderly people on small incomes did not claim supplementary benefit. They would not get any help at all.

Mr Major said Mr Winnick was being typically mean-spirited. The heating additions, which now amounted to over £600 million, had been widened and extended and made a statutory entitlement. Under the previous

Labour Government, there had been no statutory entitlement to exceptionally cold weather payments at all. Mr Winnick's conscience was a very late arrival.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, Lab) said that during the past 72 hours the vulnerable groups had not known where they stood. Their heating costs this week would be more than £5 would cover.

Mr Major said the Government was determined to make the payment to underpin bills that would come in. Mr Eric Cockburn (Ludlow, C) said the Conservatives had introduced the payment and the blessings of the Labour Party were being reapplied to the payment.

Mr Major said the most important concern was to ensure that the elderly and vulnerable were protected.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C) said that on the face of it, he was subsidizing heat loss through uninsulated roofs and pipes. Would he get together with the Secretary of State for Energy and work out a scheme to replace this revenue loss with long-term capital improvements?

Mr Major said that such discussions were already in hand.



Dr David Owen (left) and Mr David Steel arriving at ITN headquarters in London yesterday for an interview on the lunchtime news programme (Photograph: Mark Turner).

Ridley allows for a 13% rise in council spending

Provision for local authority current expenditure in England for 1987-88 would be set at £25,251 million, a 13 per cent increase on last year and £40 million higher than previously proposed to take account of more up-to-date information.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a statement to the Commons.

He also announced the Government's intention to increase the grant to local authorities for recycling arrangements.

He promised that that would produce a tougher regime for high-spending authorities which would no longer receive a paradoxical and unearned benefit through recycling.

He told the House: When I made my announcement about relevant and total expenditure on December 16, I said that no further rate-support grant reports could be made until validating legislation had been approved by Parliament to allow decisions to be taken in line with the practice which had hitherto been adopted.

RATE SUPPORT

announcing today. The figures also take into account expected higher spending by some rate and precept limited authorities to reflect the provisions of the Local Government Finance Bill.

The consequence of these changes is to increase slightly the grant entitlements of most local authorities.

The aggregate of Exchequer Grant to authorities will be set at the level I announced in July - £12,842 million - which is an increase of over £1,000 million, or 8 per cent, over the level included in the settlement for the current financial year.

My estimate of aggregate total expenditure in 1987-88 is £24,703 million. Provision for local authority current expenditure will be set at £25,251 million; this is 13 per cent more than the settlement last year and £40 million higher than previously proposed to take account of the latest information.

In addition, the Government will make available additional provision and grant when there is a settlement on teachers' pay which meets our requirements on costs, pay structure and duties.

There are plenty of opportunities for authorities to reduce their expenditure for example, by putting out services to competitive tendering or by increasing the many savings identified by the Audit Commission. I intend therefore that the aggregate of authorities' grant-related expenditure assessments should not be inflated by the full increase in expenditure provision, but should be broadly steady in real terms.

I intend to specify the same principles for GREs as were proposed in the December 3 consultation paper; the provision for rate-support grant will stay the same over the year. This will provide an incentive for authorities to restrain their expenditure.

I intend that the slope of the grant-related percentage schedule for 1987-88 will be the same as for 1986-87. This will provide an incentive for authorities to restrain their expenditure.

Medical 'macho' image attacked

Transplant surgeons concerned with their own "macho" image were attacked during Commons questions by Mr Anthony Bevan (Birmingham, Selby, C).

"There are many cases of people suffering acute pain for many years, such as those with varicose veins or other problems, who would be better served if the money were not spent on much of the transplant surgery where doctors are more inclined to be concerned with their own reputations and their own macho image," he said.

There should be a separate budget so that money would not often be wasted on improving surgeons' reputations.

Mr Anthony Bevan, Minister for Health, said that difficulties in trying to get a balance between such considerations had always faced health ministers and health authorities.

Earlier, Mr Newton said it was for the responsible doctor to decide whether, in his clinical judgement, a patient needed to be admitted to hospital.

Mr Bevan said that the £30 million waiting list fund, which he hoped it would be possible to provide help to Leicestershire District Health Authority, would be in support of the effective efforts they were making there.

Hesitation on prescriptions

Mr Anthony Newton, Minister for Health, said during questions in the Commons that he would hesitate before accepting a suggestion that any condition which might give rise to an operation should automatically receive free prescriptions in advance.

He could not accept there was any parallel between cases of patients receiving medication for heart disease, cancer, surgery and so on not qualifying for free prescriptions and back-up services, and drug abusers who were given free prescriptions.

The reason for giving this service to drug abusers was an attempt to curb the spread of the awful disease of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids).

Lords hit by the weather

The House of Lords has not escaped the cold snap: Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, has been forced to change the route of his traditional procession to the Woolwich two days in succession.

The Lord Chancellor has been the victim of frozen pipes and valves which have burst in various parts of the Lords. The most serious leak flooded the bishops' corridor and caused a two-foot tear in a painting, by parliamentary artist Dickinson and Foster of the death of Gladstone's home rule Bill in the Lords in 1893.

MSC to study youth report

Mr John Lee, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said in a written reply that he has asked the Manpower Services Commission to take account of the issues and implications raised in respect of homeless young people entering employment and training programmes after his consideration of a report on homeless young people sent to him by Mr Douglas Gurney, Director of the Disabilities Study Unit.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Opposition motion on old people and cold weather.

Lords (2.30): Debates on contrast in prosperity between the South-east and other regions and on Britain's commitment to international institutions. Licensing (Restaurant Meals Bill, committee).

COMMENTARY

Geoffrey Smith

The Alliance always suffers particularly severely from any sign of disunity. That was why its initial honeymoon with the electorate came to an abrupt end in 1982 with the public squabble over the allocation of seats for the general election. That was why it was damaged so badly by the fierce over-defence during the last-party conference session.

Not only was the Alliance left without an agreed policy on a critical issue, but the dispute intensified the doubt that so many people had about the Alliance already: whether such a partnership between two separate parties could be more than an unstable co-operation of convenience.

So the most important feature of the Alliance's tactic of election spokesmen, announced this week, is that it has been possible to put together an agreed selection at all.

That should do more than any other single decision could have done - with the obvious exception of agreement on a single issue which is not politically possible this side of the election - to give an impression of unity in practice.

Crucial decision on numbers

The composition of the team is also just about as encouraging as it could have been. The critical decision has been to give the Social Democrats a larger share of the key portfolios than would be justified by their strength either in the House of Commons or in the country.

To some Liberals that will seem unfair. They will feel that they are being cut in the role of the foot soldier of the Alliance, sweating away in considerably greater numbers on the ground in the constituencies while the SDP gets the plum jobs in the general staff.

There is some logic in that attitude, but not much political sense. An election campaign can stand little chance of success, especially when waged by underdogs, unless it makes the best use of its resources.

The resources that the Liberals bring to the Alliance are a better organization and wider membership around the country, and both greater talent and experience in constituency campaigning.

The special contribution of the SDP is its experience of office, which no Liberal has at any level. The Social Democrats have four former Cabinet ministers in their ranks. They bring a political weight and credibility which the Liberals by themselves have not had for years.

They have refrained from making full use of their talents for the sake of greater equity between the two parties would have been absurd. It follows that Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr William Rodgers, two of the four ex-Cabinet ministers, needed to be given portfolios.

The most delicate decisions on individual responsibilities have also been wise. Mr Roy Jenkins has more authority on economic issues than anybody else in the Alliance. He is obviously the right man for that post, provided that he brings a reasonably consistent energy to the task.

Mr John Cartwright's appointment as defence spokesman is the most controversial because he is so closely associated with Dr David Owen's stand on this issue. But that in fact an advantage, especially as he is a shrewd enough politician not to ruffle Liberal feelings gratuitously.

SDP less rigid on nuclear energy

It would be damaging for the Alliance's electoral appeal if Dr Owen seemed to have been pushed to a cozy compromise by dovish Liberals.

That Social Democrats will be the spokesmen on energy should also help to keep the Alliance more in touch with the mainstream of public opinion. The SDP takes a less rigidly restrictive position than the Liberals on nuclear energy.

But to pay that particular compliment to the Alliance team raises the principal question about it. It seems to have been designed both to demonstrate Alliance unity and to keep the Alliance as much in touch as it reasonably could with majority opinion in this country.

Is the Alliance, however, prepared to be united on this basis? Or will there now be attempts to undermine some of the key spokesmen on doctrinal grounds?

Commons defence committee

Mates emerges the victor

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Mates will preside over his first meeting as chairman of the powerful Commons defence select committee today after remarkable behind-the-scenes shenanigans over who was to succeed Sir Humphrey Atkins.

Until just a few hours before Mr Mates's appointment was announced, Mr Keith Speed, the former Navy minister, was the clear favourite for the influential job. What had been overlooked, however, were the deals struck when Sir Humphrey was appointed in 1983.

On that occasion four Conservative MPs were in contention for the post: Mr Mates, Mr Michael Marshall, Mr Winston Churchill and Sir Humphrey.

Alone among the four, Sir Humphrey had no support within the committee, but he did have the backing of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who wished to reward him for his service as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland during the Falklands invasion, and for his failure to win the Speakership.

It was also suggested that



Mr Michael Mates: A forceful reminder.

standing down. Neither did, however, and after intense pressure from Mr John Wakeham, the Government Chief Whip, Sir Humphrey emerged as the surprising winner.

On this occasion the succession was decided by the seven Conservative members, two of whom were candidates. Mr Churchill and Mr Edward Leigh lined up behind Mr Mates; and Mr Marshall and Mr Neil Thorne behind Mr Speed, giving Sir Humphrey the casting vote, and he had already told colleagues that he would support Mr Speed.

At the eleventh hour, however, Sir Humphrey switched sides. The reason, it seems, is that Mr Mates had forcefully reminded him of undertakings that he had received in return for his agreeing to back Sir Humphrey in 1983.

One undertaking was that Sir Humphrey would stand down after a couple of years. Another was that his successor would be chosen from among the MPs who were then members of the committee. The third was that Sir Humphrey would cast his vote for Mr Mates.

He wanted to keep out hardliners who might have formed an awkward alliance with Mr Michael Heseltine, who was then Secretary of State for Defence, if new pressure was put on defence spending.

The three Labour members of the committee were prepared to support either Mr Mates or Mr Marshall, who had served as members in the previous Parliament, and either of the two could have given the other the job by

Hanging Bill is rejected

The death penalty would have been the most appropriate response for Myra Hindley, Ian Brady and others like them, Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Luton, C) said when he unsuccessfully sought leave to bring in a Bill making it a capital offence to murder a child. The Bill was rejected by 175 votes to 110.

It was his contention that capital punishment would, by its deterrent effect, reduce the number of child murders if it became part of the law once again.

Nothing was more likely to make the potential child murderer pause than the knowledge that if he killed he might suffer his own death.

Despite all the strong measures taken by the Government, the state was simply not protecting its children to the satisfaction of public opinion.

The recent return of Hindley to Saddleworth Moor had reopened painful wounds of her victims may have been saved by the Labour Government of the day had not given notice that it had plans to abolish the death penalty.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab) opposing, said, hanging had never been a deterrent and the statistics proved it.

Council finance Bill wins Commons second reading

The following report of the Commons debate on the Local Government Finance Bill appeared in later editions of this newspaper yesterday.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, moved second reading of the Local Government Finance Bill, which rectifies the error that made the method of calculating government rate-support grants illegal.

He said that the purpose of the Bill was to validate the practice adopted by the Department of the Environment and the Welsh Office since 1981-82 in calculating relevant and total expenditure for block grant and rate limitation.

It would allow that practice to continue on a proper basis for the remaining years of the present rating system and it would allow the rate and precept limits for 1987-88 to be set.

He would not be able to ask the House to approve the rate-support grant settlement this year until the Bill became an Act.

The Government had no alternative but to legislate. Without such legislation, all past decisions which involved the concepts of total or relevant expenditure would have been in doubt.

"It would have been quite improper to take further decisions about rate-support grant

or rate limitation without securing the legal position."

The legislation was urgent to enable the House to complete the rate-support grant settlement for 1987-88 and make outstanding supplementary reports from previous years and to complete the 1987-88 round of rate limitation.

It was essential to put matters right as fast as possible to end uncertainty about grant entitlements for 1987-88 and allow authorities to plan their budgets and rates.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said the Bill was a collection of very bad ideas to which the Opposition was almost totally opposed. Even a cursory glance exposed the misleading claims of the Secretary of State.

"The legislation contains proposals for even more authoritarian, centralizing powers for the Secretary of State; denial of justice, let alone natural justice, for some local authorities; a proposal by the Secretary of State to try to set himself above the law, to protect himself from the normal processes of the courts; and to deny the basic right of any legal challenge to his arbitrary decisions which will also be above parliamentary scrutiny and control."

The Government had made

change after change in local government finance, heaping Act upon Act. It had made 12 important changes in local government finance since 1979, demonstrating a mixture of malice towards local government with ignorance of local government finances.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, Lab) said that if councilors in Liverpool had tried to do what the Government was attempting, the Government's attempt to impose a new system of rates would have been a disaster.

Mr William Michie (Sheffield, Heeley, Lab) said the Government was imposing more control on local government, but MPs had no control over the Secretary of State at all.

Michael Asensio, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, said the Opposition had been looking for sinister motives behind every sub-clause.

They would be better occupied in assisting the passage of the Bill so that authorities could be sure of receiving grants to which they were entitled from the start of the new financial year.

The Bill was read a second time by 247 votes to 179 - Government majority, 68.

Big in offer women

Compe convey

Hopes

The British motor... which collapsed... could be... with production... New British machine... of a classic... After UK sales of... fell for the sixth... nine years to 103,530... on Villiers Triumph... (NVT) announced... that it was producing a... British motor cycle... Mr Philippe Le... managing director of... complete with the idea was... a dwindling market for... produce an "executive... with the most advanced... The new "superb... which is being produced... Norton factory... the firm of its... public sale of its... many engine... NVT also plans a...

Big increase in sex offences against women in London

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

Sex offences against women in London have increased by more than 25 per cent in two years, according to figures released yesterday by Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, in his strategy statement for 1987.

The sex-attack figures, described by Sir Kenneth as "disturbing", show a 16.6 per cent increase in reported offences in 1985. This follows a new policy designed to give women confidence in approaching police.

A further 8 per cent rise is expected when the 1986 figures are computed, giving a total increase of 25.9 per cent since 1984. The projected cases figure for 1986 is 3,800.

The 1986 sex-attack projection is the first official hint of what Scotland Yard sources expect will be "disastrous" crime statistics for last year - the figures are due out in the next two months.

There is also "compelling evidence", according to the statement, that street robbery is reaching even higher levels in specific areas. Twelve of the 75 divisions in London are responsible for 51 per cent of the offences.

In addition, the strategy reports a 10 per cent increase in armed robberies in the first months of 1986.

With problems like these, Sir Kenneth has decided to remove many police resources from the problem of auto crime, which represents 27 per cent of all recorded crime. Car thefts will no longer be among the top priorities for police.

The statement, addressed to Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, admits the police have failed to bring any measurable benefit to car owners, who, Sir Kenneth says, merely regard theft and vandalism as "irritating".

Crime prevention would continue and police divisions would provide resources where possible, but initiatives with the public and the car industry.

Discussions are also taking place with the Manpower Services Commission to see if the burden of looking after the expanding neighbourhood watch schemes can be taken over by civilian co-ordinators.

In his strategy for 1987 Sir Kenneth pledges that more will be done not only to look after victims but also to detect the offenders. It will be part of a policy of emphasizing "the safety of the citizen", aimed especially at women at risk in domestic situations, young drug abusers, children and victims of racial attacks.

The new policy comes after a year in which, according to Sir Kenneth's statement, the police have made big inroads against the threat of organized crime.

The Yard operation with American agencies against drug traffickers and money launderers has identified money and property worth one billion dollars.

Sir Kenneth notes that while the public perceived the threat from organized crime as remote "the impact of organized crime is nonetheless real and experience in other countries has shown how it can erode the quality of life, commercial integrity and even undermine a country's financial base".

As well as being successful against organized crime, Sir Kenneth says the police have also scotched 28 serious cases of extortion - double the figure in 1984.

But the statement is not without complaint. Sir Kenneth says that the police need a breathing space after a period which has seen not only the pressures of reorganization but important legislation and changes in the police of environment.

Constantly faced with manpower problems, Sir Kenneth notes there are also difficulties getting money out of Whitehall for big projects, like computerization.



Workers with chainsaws and pesticides join a £30 million campaign to contain the spread of rhododendron ponticum in the Snowdonia National Park in Wales. Mr Iwan Evans, left, and Mr Cliff Lewis are tackling Dinas Mawddwy, a steep hill in the Corris Forest District. The bush was introduced into Britain from Asia Minor about 100 years ago by horticulturalists but has invaded the park to such an extent that natural flora and fauna are under threat. (Photograph: Philip Dunn)

Problems of murder inquiry

The Department of Health and Social Security explained yesterday why a promised government inquiry into the murder of a social worker by a former client has been held up.

The Commons was told last June that there would be an inquiry into the death in July 1984 of Miss Isabel Schwarz, a psychiatric social worker for Berley council.

But the department said the terms of reference had still not been agreed with the health authorities and social service departments and an inquiry team had not been appointed.

The department said: "We hope to make an announcement shortly but we have to deal with four different departments and it has taken some time."

Miss Schwarz was murdered in her office at Berley Hospital, Kent, by Sharon Campbell, who was later found not fit to plead when she appeared in court.

Women in Parliament: 1

The odds against selection

The number of women MPs has not changed since the Second World War. In the first of two articles Sheila Gunn of Our Political Staff analyses the latest candidates' lists which reveal selection committees are still reluctant to pick women to fight winnable seats.

produced only 23 women MPs. Four more have since won by-elections.

Five women MPs have announced they will not fight the next election: Mrs Sally Oppenheim (C) and Mrs Renee Short, Miss Jo Richardson, Dame Judith Hart and Miss Joan Maynard for Labour. The seats of six women who are standing again are at risk, including Mrs Margaret Beckett (Derby South, Lab) majority 421; and Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe and Nantwich, Lab) maj 290.

This leaves 16 women MPs with comfortable majorities and 12 candidates picked for safe seats. Another 16 women are in with a chance.

Most of the new women MPs will be Labour and include two former members, Mrs Joan Lester and Mrs Audrey Wise. Only three of the Conservative women candidates can be optimistic of getting in, including Miss Emma Nicholson, standing at West Devon and Torridge (maj 12,351).

The Alliance has a high proportion of new women candidates but it will take a landslide to launch them into the Commons.

Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, cannot be disappointed, but needs to overturn Mr Robert Rhodes James's Conservative majority at the last election of 5,968 to win Cambridge.

Tomorrow: What went wrong.

Competition cuts conveyancing fees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Increased competition between solicitors and "shopping around" by the public caused a 25 per cent drop in conveyancing fees, expressed as a percentage of average house prices, in the past four years.

A survey by Peat Marwick, published today, shows that domestic conveyancing charges now account for just under 0.7 per cent of the average house price compared with just over 0.9 per cent in 1983.

In some cases, the threat of increased competition has brought conveyancing fees out of up to 50 per cent or more since 1980. The lower prices also include costs of mortgage work on home purchases, which have fallen by about £50 in the past four years.

The survey, commissioned by the Law Society and the first of its kind since 1983, shows that solicitors now earn up to 30 per cent less from conveyancing work than they did five years ago. But in spite of the increased competition, most firms find the work is still profitable.

However, the survey, based on information from more than 240 firms, indicates that more firms fear there will be a deterioration in the level of service to the public if fees come down any more.

Conveyancing fees are still linked on average with the size of the property, although a few firms charge a fixed fee. Throughout Britain, the fees increase as the size of the firm increases.

However there was no evidence of a cartel operating in the six towns studied in the survey. Attempts had been made in three towns to regulate charges, but they had failed in the face of undercutting by sole practitioners and smaller practices.

Central London and Wales generally have the highest conveyancing fees, while there was little variation in other regions.

In spite of the imminent arrival of licensed conveyancers on to the market, solicitors' firms believe the main source of competition will be from within the profession, with a potential threat posed by big financial institu-

tions should they become involved in conveyancing.

This was a particular worry for small two and three partner firms. The survey shows sole practitioners derive 67 per cent of their total fees from conveyancing, while small firms with up to four partners derive 46 per cent and those with up to 14 partners gain 36 per cent.

But these averages may be high because firms in central London, where conveyancing fees now account for a small proportion of fees, were included.

Sole practitioners who carry out almost nothing but domestic conveyancing have been better able to cope than a more diverse practice which would not commit its resources to one specialization, the survey says.

Most firms believe that given the current level of fees, improvements to the existing service are not possible and further cuts will mean a worse service. Pressure on house conveyancing fees is predicted to continue, and those most likely to suffer are small firms unable to broaden their business base or reduce overheads further in line with falling margins.

There was also a mixed response to the idea of mergers, which was seen by smaller practices as the only way to survive the next few years, while larger firms want to stay independent. The survey concludes that firms best placed to succeed are those where partners, "show entrepreneurial flair and a willingness to compete actively in the market place".

For firms with more than three partners, this could mean extending their business into other areas of work, such as litigation and commercial work. For smaller firms, it means focusing on house conveyancing and cutting costs through greater efficiency.

The survey says that in both cases "aggressive marketing" will be required. Most firms had looked at advertising in the last year, although few claimed a long-term commitment to it.

Home lent to gas blast hero

The policeman who saved his neighbours from a gas explosion which demolished his home will today move into a £50,000 house loaned to him by a building company.

Police Constable Nick Shaw, aged 29, and his wife, Louise, who have been married for only six months, have been granted free use of the house at Little Stoke, near Bristol, until Easter.

The offer, by a building firm based in Birmingham, was approved by Mr Ronald Broome, Chief Constable of Avon.

Police Sergeant Peter Allen and his neighbour Mr Chris Boycott were praised yesterday for evacuating families when they detected a gas leak in their street in Ryde, Isle of Wight.

The two men moved more than 30 people to a community hall. Workmen later discovered that the street's gas main had been badly fractured by the freezing weather.

Motor dealer in drive ban

Victor Barclay, a supplier of Rolls Royce cars, drove home under the influence of drink after a day at the races, Horseferry Road magistrates court heard yesterday.

Barclay, aged 49, of Oddington, Gloucestershire, claimed that friends had "spiked" his drinks. He was banned from driving for three years and fined £400.

Escaped killer surrenders

Michael Smith, aged 32, a murderer who broke out of Ashwell Open Prison in Leicestershire on New Year's Eve, gave himself up yesterday when police found him in a house in Stoke-on-Trent.

Smith was jailed 10 years ago for murdering his girl friend.

Court promise

Coco Chanel, the French designer house, has won a High Court pledge from Kays, a British mail order company, not to use its name to advertise cheaper, look-alike shoes.

British motor cycle industry

Hopes ride on a 'superbike'

By Roland Radd

The British motor cycle trade, which collapsed in the seventies, could be back in business with production of a new British machine, and the revival of a classic.

After UK sales of motor-cycles fell for the sixth consecutive year to 103,530 - the lowest for 16 years - the Norton Villiers Triumph Group (NVT) announced yesterday that it was producing a new British motor cycle.

Mr Philippe le Roux, managing director of the group, said the idea was not to compete with the Japanese for a dwindling market but to produce an "executive toy" with the most advanced technology.

The new "superbike", which is being produced at the former Norton factory in Shenstone, Staffordshire, will be the first of its kind for public sale to be powered by a rotary engine.

NVT also plans to re-

produce the classic Norton Commando, which was the sensation of the 1967 Earl's Court motor cycle show.

"British bikes on British bikes" is the new group's slogan. However, judging by the initial plans to produce only to demand - NVT hopes to have a long waiting list - it will still be some time before British machines are freely available.

For the past three years, the Shenstone plant has produced a successful police motor cycle, the Interpol 2. There are 230 on the road with more than half the country's police forces.

The Interpol 2 is powered by the new rotary engine, which is lighter and faster than rival engines, and is said to provide a more comfortable ride.

NVT Limited, which was formed in 1973 to bring the whole of the British motor cycle industry together, was forced to put its plants into

liquidation in the face of overwhelming competition from Japan.

In 1978, it re-opened the factory at Shenstone to develop the rotary engine. In 1983 it began to sell the Interpol 2.

When NVT Limited went into voluntary liquidation, two active subsidiaries, Norton Motors and NVT motor cycles, and all the rights, patents and trademarks associated with the names Norton, Villiers and Triumph, were sold to the new NVT group.

Attempts to recreate the British motor cycle trade have failed in the past, most notably Lord Heath's attempt in 1980 to launch a new British "superbike".

However, Mr le Roux believes there is a difference with the NVT plan. "Our motor cycle, has done a million miles of heavy duty police work. It has already proved its worth."

Spectrum, page 14

Teachers 'executed in field'

Two British schoolteachers were bound and gagged before being executed as they knelt together in a field in Brittany, France, an inquest at Diss, Norfolk, was told yesterday.

Miss Lorraine Glasby and Mr Paul Bellion, who were engaged, left their newly-bought cottage in Garboldisham, Norfolk, for a cycling holiday in Brittany last July.

The inquest was told that on October 1 their badly decomposed bodies were unearthed from shallow graves at Lanballe, 20 miles from St Malo.

Mr Ernest Clark, the Diss coroner, was told medical evidence showed Miss Glasby, aged 28, a teacher at Diss High School, was shot in the leg before being shot in the head.

Her fiancé, aged 29, a teacher at Rosemary Musker High School, in Thetford, Norfolk, was shot in the head. Their killer or killers, who had not been caught, made off with their bicycles, passports, money and other documents.

Chief Insp Richard Curtis, who liaised with French police, said: "It looks as if they were killed just hours before they were due to sail home on August 24. They were seen safe and well on August 23 and a witness thought he saw them at 7pm that night 1km from where their bodies were found."

Their fathers, Mr David Glasby, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, and Mr Douglas Bellion, of St Helena, Lancashire, said they had received postcards from the couple on their journey to La Rochelle, where they rented a cottage. But where they stayed on their return journey was a mystery.

Mr Clark, who recorded verdicts of unlawful killing, said: "One can only hope those responsible will soon be brought to justice."

Crash victims were killed 'unlawfully'

A driver in a collision in which four people died in June had more than twice the legal limit of alcohol in his blood, an inquest at Horsey, north London, heard yesterday.

Mr Bernard Pearl, the coroner, recorded that the driver of a minicab and a young male passenger were unlawfully killed, as was a young woman in a car. The verdict on the car driver was accidental death.

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- ☐ Put in a complete new kitchen
- ☐ Have the holiday of a lifetime
- ☐ Own a sailing dinghy

If I had £7,500 I would:

- ☐ Buy a new car
- ☐ Put an extension on the house
- ☐ Have a holiday flat at the seaside
- ☐ Own a speedboat

If I had £10,000 I would:

- ☐ Buy a new car and caravan
- ☐ Put it towards a retirement cottage
- ☐ Have a holiday flat in Spain
- ☐ Own a motor cruiser

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18-20	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	18-20	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
21-23	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	21-23	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
24-26	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	24-26	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
27-29	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	27-29	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
30-32	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	30-32	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
33-35	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	33-35	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
36-38	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	36-38	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
39-41	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	39-41	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
42-44	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	42-44	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
45-47	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	45-47	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
48-50	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	48-50	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
51-53	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	51-53	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
54-56	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	54-56	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
57-59	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	57-59	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
60-62	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	60-62	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
63-65	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	63-65	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
66-68	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	66-68	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
69-71	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	69-71	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
72-74	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	72-74	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
75-77	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	75-77	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
78-80	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	78-80	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
81-83	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	81-83	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
84-86	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	84-86	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
87-89	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	87-89	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
90-92	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	90-92	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
93-95	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	93-95	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
96-98	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	96-98	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
99-101	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	99-101	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000
102-104	£2,500	£1,250	£1,250	£5,000	102-104	£5,000	£2,500	£2,500	£10,000

WORLD SUMMARY

Black miners quit after killings

Johannesburg — Nearly half of the black labour force at a South African gold mine where eight miners were killed and more than 50 injured in inter-tribal fighting at the weekend have left their jobs (Ray Kennedy writes).

Censor, owners of the Beatrix mine in the Orange Free State, said yesterday that it "regretted to announce" that 3,900 of the 8,000 black workers had resigned.

It said: "The men have taken this drastic step presumably to distance themselves from potential further conflict in spite of strenuous efforts to persuade them otherwise." It would take up to two months to train men to replace them.

The death toll in the worst outbreak of faction fighting at the country's gold mines for more than 10 years has now risen to 78. Anglo-American Corporation, the country's biggest mining house, has appointed a senior barrister to lead an inquiry into the causes of the violence. The black National Union of Mineworkers has countered this with an advertising campaign claiming that the migrant labour system and single-sex hostels are the basic causes.



Falklands pledge

Port Stanley (Reuters) — Mr George Younger, left, Secretary of State for Defence, who is visiting the Falklands for the first time, has given the 2,000 islanders a renewed pledge of self-determination and effective defence. He later met some of the 4,000 British troops stationed there.

Guerrillas gain

Islamabad (Reuters) — Western diplomats in Pakistan yesterday reported heavy fighting between Muslim guerrillas and Afghan and Soviet forces in Afghanistan, where the Moscow-backed Government has declared a unilateral ceasefire from Thursday.

They said that guerrillas shot down two Soviet aircraft in southern Chitral province and overran eight government posts in east Khyber province at the end of last month. They also reported intense fighting in eastern Logar and Nangarhar provinces over the past two weeks.

Leaders of the seven-member guerrilla alliance yesterday met for the second day in Peshawar, north-west Pakistan, where most of the guerrillas have their bases, to consider their response to Kabul's peace initiative.

Ear-eater set alight

Harare — Mrs Evan Mphahlele, a nurse at a rural hospital, not only bit off a chunk of a colleague's ear also swallowed it, the regional court heard yesterday (Jan Kaur writes).

In retaliation, her victim, Mrs Annah Bhuwa, set fire to Mrs Mphahlele with a can of petrol when the nurse returned to her room at hospital, burning her severely and causing "severe depression". Mrs Bhuwa was sentenced to two years in jail for attempted murder.

Fortune hunters

Pescara (Reuters) — Dozens of people have scoured a rubbish tip in this eastern Italian town after a retired schoolteacher said she had accidentally thrown away a state lottery ticket worth one billion lire (about £500,000).

Maria D'Incalci, aged 65, claimed that she threw away her third prize ticket by mistake, thinking it was last year's ticket. Legal experts say that only a person actually holding the ticket can claim the money.

Battle in Hyderabad

Karachi — After a day-long pitched battle between agitators and the police, the Army has taken control of Hyderabad, 100 miles from Karachi, and an indefinite curfew has been imposed. At least two people were reported killed and 15 more injured by police shooting yesterday morning. Vehicles, shops, and banks were set ablaze by the mob (A Correspondent writes).

The trouble started on Monday night and continued yesterday with a complete strike by all workers after the brutal murder in Karachi of two young girls.

Meanwhile, troops moved in to assist the civil authorities in New Karachi after demonstrations against the administration which turned into ethnic clashes between Pathans and Mohajirs. At least one person was reported killed and another 35 injured in clashes yesterday.

Chalker clears air in Ghana

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is believed to have cleared the air with Ghana after heated discussions over Britain's refusal to apply comprehensive sanctions against South Africa.

Mrs Chalker flew home yesterday feeling much more confident about relations with Ghana, which took a leading role in the black African walkout from last year's Commonwealth Games.

After a hostile demonstration and three sharply anti-British radio broadcasts in Ghana, the chances of an understanding with Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings' Government at first looked remote.

Her meeting with Mr P. V. Obeng, the Prime Minister, started badly, but the tone rapidly improved. "We had a fairly frank and brusque discussion, but at the end he appreciated our point of view," she said.

More sharp words followed with Captain Kojo Tsikata, member of the Provisional National Defence Council for Foreign Affairs. He said "You must have comprehensive mandatory sanctions, and I said there had to be another way which would not harm the black people to the same extent".

The fact that Britain was prepared to defend its position on a moral basis appeared to win respect. Mrs Chalker said she was asked to return for longer and deeper discussion. "The minister's tour has greatly improved prospects for the next Commonwealth conference. Whitehall sources said."

Casualties mount in Iran-Iraq clashes



Iranian troops preparing to cross Fish Lake, in Iran's north-western Shalamchah region, where its latest operation against Iraq was launched last Friday. Thousands have been reported killed in the fighting (Reuters reports from Bahrain).

Civilians were under fire again as Iran and Iraq stepped up their air attacks on cities yesterday with fighting in the southern front marshlands apparently close to stalemate.

Several Baghdad residents were reported killed

or wounded in an Iranian missile strike, the second since Iran launched a drive across the border into southern Iraq last Friday.

Iraqi warplanes staged retaliatory raids on at least three Iranian towns including Qom, the holy city 80 miles south of Tehran. Another "violent and destructive" attack was launched on targets at Khorramabad, across the border due east of Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

Iraq, which puts Iraqi war-front casualties at

17,500 dead or wounded in the past four days, said "a number" of civilians were killed or wounded in raids on Khorramabad, Dezful and Esfahan.

Iraq's latest war communiqués said the southern front invasion force was "stabilizing positions" after fresh victories over Iraqi defenders west of Shalamchah. This lent support to independent military assessments that the Iranian thrust was a limited operation rather than the decisive offensive forecast by Iran's war planners.

Hopes of progress in Geneva

Superpowers make new bid to break arms deadlock

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The crucial nuclear arms control talks, which resume in Geneva tomorrow, have received a boost with the announcement here that both superpowers have upgraded the status of their delegation heads in a new attempt to break the post-Reykjavik deadlock.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday convened a special press conference to confirm that its veteran chief negotiator, Mr Viktor Karpov, had been replaced by Mr Yuri Vorontsov, one of two first deputy Foreign Ministers and one of the diplomatic high-flyers of the Gorbachev era.

Amid the ritualistic rhetoric aimed at recent declarations from Washington, the long question-and-answer session contained more than a hint that the main avenue for progress may hinge on the definition of the kind of "laboratory research" permitted to the US Star Wars programme.

Senior Western diplomatic sources said later that they saw the elevation of Mr Vorontsov — until last year the envoy in Paris — as a sign that the Soviet Union may be prepared to adopt a more imaginative approach to the Geneva talks, which have often become bogged down on basic positions.

Mr Vladimir Petrovsky, Deputy Foreign Minister, made it clear that Mr Vorontsov's promotion had been undertaken to give "a new impulse, a new dynamism" to the Geneva nuclear and space weapons talks which — in the absence of any plans for a 1987 summit — are now the main forum for superpower negotiations.

The minister, Italy denied a suggestion from one reporter

that the Kremlin had recently proposed another "mini-summit" of the Reykjavik variety.

He repeated the stock Kremlin formula that Moscow would be willing to have another Gorbachev-Reagan summit (as originally agreed at Geneva in 1985) if it could be upgraded in order to give the talks new momentum.

"We hope that this raising of the level of the delegation heads will make it possible to enliven the talks and make the Reykjavik agreements a reality of international politics," he said, without providing observers present with any evidence for believing that a breakthrough was near.

The Soviet view of the importance of the standing of the leaders of the Geneva delegations ran strongly counter to that expressed earlier this week in a US television interview by Mr Casper Weinberger, the American Secretary of Defence, who said: "I think the important thing really is not the individual who goes to Geneva, it is the authority he has."

Western diplomats saw the Kremlin move as a demotion for Mr Karpov, who made a diplomatic gaffe after Reykjavik by falsely suggesting in both London and Bonn that Moscow might be prepared to negotiate individual agreements on separate elements of the total package put forward.

It has been made abundantly clear since that he misrepresented Mr Gorbachev's determination to insist on the package as an interdependent whole.

● GENEVA: Mr Kampelman said yesterday that much work remains to be done in discussions with the Soviet Union (Alan McGregor reports).

He described Mr Vorontsov, as "a distinguished diplomat who knows my country and the West well, and who has experience in arms control."

Christopher Tugendhat, page 16

Contrite US tries to mollify Israel

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Reagan Administration, embarrassed by charges from Jerusalem that it was making Israel a scapegoat in the Iran affair, yesterday hastened to repair relations with a contrite explanation to the Israeli Government.

The White House announced that Mr Thomas Pickering, the US Ambassador to Israel, had called on officials to correct any impression from the White House release of documents that President Reagan blamed Israel for initiating the arms sales to Iran.

"The papers in no way reflect discredit or cast blame on Israel or attribute responsibility to Israel for the decisions made by the President," Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said. Relations between the United States and Israel remained close, and publicity about the role each played must not damage the relationship.

The White House statement follows an angry outburst on Monday from President Herzog of Israel, who accused some US government officials of using Israel as a "whipping boy" in alleging that Israel initiated both the arms sales and the diversion of profits to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The Reagan Administration was deeply embarrassed by leaks of a Senate intelligence committee report which said Israel had pressed the US to sell the arms to Tehran. President Reagan has invited Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, to Washington for talks on February 18. The last thing he now needs is a public quarrel with Jerusalem.

However, a memorandum to President Reagan from Vice-Admiral John Poindexter, the former National Security Ad-

viser, said Mr Shamir Peres, who was then the Israeli Prime Minister, was the moving force behind the arms deal. The document was released by the White House on Friday. The State Department criticized this release.

Meanwhile, Mr Robert McFarlane, the former National Security Adviser, admitted to NBC television that he had deliberately lied in asserting earlier that President Reagan knew nothing about the Israeli arms shipment to Tehran in August 1985. He said he and other White House aides had concocted a cover story that Mr Reagan knew about this only after the fact, in order to protect the President.

In his later testimony on oath before the House foreign affairs committee, he said that Mr Reagan had approved this shipment. This contradicted the testimony of Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff, who said he had not.

Mr McFarlane told NBC that he had now given the correct version, whereas the White House was still sticking to the false cover story.

A White House official, however, said Mr McFarlane was trying to protect himself. Blame is coming ever closer to Mr Reagan himself, however. On Monday, Senator William Cohen of Maine, the top Republican on the Senate intelligence committee, said Mr Reagan could not escape responsibility for the mistake of selling arms.

In a speech in the Senate, he said: "He must accept the consequences of the actions of those he selected."

In reply, the White House declared that President Reagan did, indeed, accept responsibility for the actions of his staff.

Jumblatt vows to aid mission by Waite

From Juan Carlos Guncio
Beirut

Mr Terry Waite, whose efforts to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon were suddenly overshadowed by the abduction of a French journalist in west Beirut yesterday, received assurances from the powerful Druze leader of the Progressive Socialist Party that his militia will do their best to help his mission.

Mr Walid Jumblatt was the first Lebanese leader Mr Waite met after his arrival in the Lebanese capital on Monday in a new bid to win the release of 16 foreign and scores of Lebanese hostages.

"He did an excellent job last time and I hope this time he will succeed," Mr Jumblatt said in a brief appearance before the press. Mr Waite used the occasion to underline the humanitarian nature of his mission, and to dispel doubts that his role in the release of two American hostages was linked to the secret arms-for-hostages deal between Washington and Iran.

"We have had a very good conversation together," Mr Waite said. He stressed an end to the hostage issue would contribute to ending Lebanon's civil war.

Mr Waite's meeting with Mr Jumblatt was a unequivocal sign that the Archbishop of Canterbury's special

envoy was exploring a new avenue in his campaign for the release of hostages.

Mr Jumblatt's party, a leading force in Lebanon's tiny, secular left, is believed to have played a key role in the release of two Soviet diplomats kidnapped in West Beirut in 1985. The PSP, regarded as the mightiest militia, is now in charge of providing security for Mr Waite.

It was not clear what Mr Jumblatt and Mr Waite discussed during a private 45-minute meeting at Mr Jumblatt's home in the Musaitbeh neighbourhood of west Beirut. Mr Waite was later driven in a bulletproof car to the Chouf mountains for talks with Druze leaders.

Mr Waite has been maintaining his pledge to give as little information as possible to the press. He made only one slight concession at midnight on Monday, when he said he had established contact with an unidentified "intermediary".

But with polite determination, he has declined to answer questions related to his mission and set the rules of his relations with the journalists during a stroll in the seaside Avenue de Paris, outside the heavily guarded Riviera Hotel where he is staying.

"From today, I have a lot of people to see and I will not be making any more press statements at all," he said. "It is necessary for me to be quiet and to be out of the way for a while."

Pope hails 'historic' meeting

From Roger Boyes, Rome.

The Pope yesterday held unusually long political talks with General Wojciech Jaruzelski and, in an extraordinary gesture towards the Polish Communist leader, received his daughter, Monika, greeting her with a rosary.

The Pope, looking tired and serious, described the meeting as "historic" and said it would bring "fruits for both Europe and Poland". A Vatican communiqué said the talks lasted 70 minutes — longer, without an interpreter, than those with any other leader in recent memory — and that they were "earnest, clear and profound".

The two Poles discussed social problems in their homeland, Church-state relations and "questions of international peace".

Vatican pundits were convinced yesterday that the Pope

regards his pilgrimage to Poland in June as a stepping stone to a summit meeting this year with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader. This would go some way to explaining why he referred to his encounter with the Polish general as "historic" as well as his allusions to future benefits for the whole of Europe.

The largest part of the audience, conducted in the Pope's library, concerned Poland. And perhaps his greatest concern for his homeland and other communist countries is to win over the young generation to Christianity. This was graphically illustrated yesterday by his short encounter with the general's daughter, aged 23, a student who as a teenager sympathized with the now outlawed Solidarity union.

Dressed in black, Monika Jaruzelski curtised when the Pope gave her a rosary for herself and another for her mother, Barbara Jaruzelski.

There will be key signals in the next few weeks as to whether yesterday's session will lead to a deeper relationship between Moscow and the Vatican. General Jaruzelski's aides are cautious, stressing that there will always be irreconcilable political differences between Catholics and Marxists. Senior Politburo members, however, are expected to travel to Moscow in the next few weeks.

After the papal audience, General Jaruzelski met Italian business leaders to explain how Poland intends to pay its large debts to the West. Italy is likely to lend more — especially if Warsaw agrees to Fiat, the Italian car maker, modernizing the Polish car industry.



The Pope and General Jaruzelski shaking hands before retiring to the Vatican library for lengthy private talks.

EEC lawyer hears property complaints in Spain

From Richard Wigg
Jávea, Costa Blanca

Spanish international fraud squad detectives were present here yesterday as an EEC Commission lawyer heard elderly Britons who own property on a local estate accuse a Spanish developer of coming them with a "hidden mortgage", which had resulted in the foreclosure of their properties.

The Britons, who had all bought villas on the Cala Blanca Park estate, alleged that the property development company, Provica, contracted in their deeds of purchase to pay back the mortgage taken with the Banco Hipotecario, but failed to do so before going into official receivership.

This resulted, they said, in the creditors, who had supplied the building material for

the estate, serving an embargo on 40 foreign-owned villas out of the 104 on the estate.

The inspectors, from the Alicante police, told reporters afterwards that their presence was part of investigations they had in hand.

But Mr Nigel Guy, who is chairman of the Cala Blanca Community Association and a retired garage owner from Hampshire, claimed that two years of seeking redress from local courts had got them nowhere.

Mr Edward Latham from Britain, a lawyer with the European Commission for 15 years, was beginning a week-long visit to Spanish Mediterranean resorts to listen to complaints after the European Parliament took up the problem. He reports to Mr

Gregoris Varfis, a Brussels Commissioner from Greece.

"I am not here to create an incident with Spain, but to find out the facts and report back. Spain is a friend of ours, keep that in mind," Mr Latham cautioned a gathering of about 200 foreigners, mostly Britons, in a hotel.

After emphasizing how Spanish and Portuguese ministerial officials had already discussed the problem with him in Brussels, the lawyer, who is today due to be joined by Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, a British Euro-MP, observed: "Madrid knows perfectly well that it is of vital importance for Spanish tourism that such problems as arise are being examined. No one doubts that the Commission is involved."

He said there was a list of

some 60 complaints from Germans, French, Dutch, Belgians and Britons over the buying of property in Spain and Portugal.

Mr Latham afterwards visited Cala Blanca Park accompanied by his Spanish detectives and by Mr Per Svensson, the Norwegian chairman of the Foreign Property Owners' Institute, a local pressure group, which helped to organize the visit.

Mr Gaston Gilly, an Argentinian and his British retired schoolmistress wife, Jacqueline, told Mr Latham of a 1.4 million pesetas (more than £7,000) outstanding mortgage, plus interest at 30 per cent, demanded as overdue by the official mortgage bank, while the creditors had embargoed their villa.

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From Philip Jacobson, Ndjamena

The Government's overwhelming victory at the strongly defended Libyan enclave at Fada earlier this month owed everything to the skillful guerrilla tactics of the Gorane tribesmen, who less than three months ago were fighting President Habré alongside Colonel Gaddafi's forces. Abrupt changes of

The sudden overwhelming assaults by fast moving "Toyota brigades" cut through their perimeter defences like a knife and a wholesale slaughter began.

"You should remember that no so long ago, tribesmen like this could quite easily quit and head for home in the middle of a campaign because they didn't feel like doing any more shooting for the time being."



East Berlin (Reuter) — The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, held talks yesterday with the East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker, and with East German government officials, during a European tour aimed at cementing Tokyo's ties with Soviet bloc countries. The one-day visit was expected to focus on economic, political and cultural ties. Both sides are eager to step up trade relations in chemicals and light machinery.

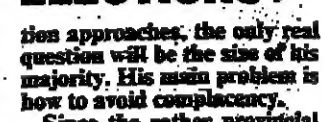
Repeated appeals by Herr Honecker for swifter application of newly-developed technology have reflected East Germany's concern that its centralized economy lacks the incentive to step up imports from Japan and the West.

Mr. Nakasone continues his tour with visits to Yugoslavia and Poland.

From Richard Owen, Bonzo

The German tabloid newspaper *Bild*, which makes British tabloids look staid, yesterday compared the domestic habits, as well as the policies, of Herr Kohl and Herr Ran and concluded they not only had much the same recipes for unemployment (economic expansion) but also

In effect, this is a two-horse race for Chancellor between Herr Kohl and Herr Rau, and a straw poll in the *Bierbrauer* of Bonn confirms what the West German papers have been saying for weeks: that although Herr Kohl's popularity is falling slightly, as the elec-



The advertising campaign, which features an astronaut on

Unless there are upsets in the next week or so, the likely result is more of the same, which is the Christian Democrats' election slogan, "Weiter So Deutschland", translated by some wags in Bonn as "Carry on, Germany".



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From Our Own Correspondent Bonn

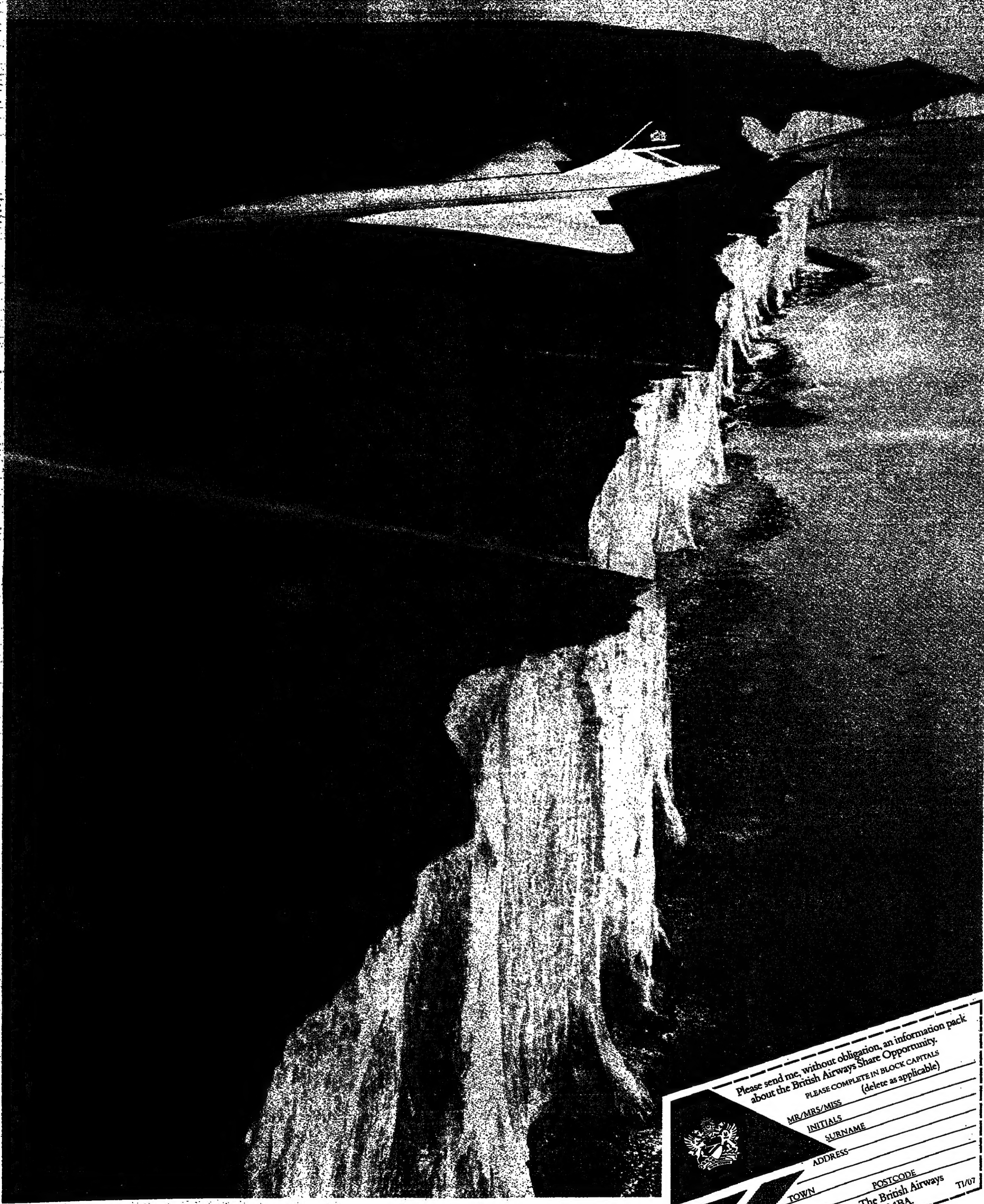
But the SDP leadership, including Herr Rau himself, still appears to be opposed to a "Red-Green" alliance even in the closing stages of the campaign, which has 10 days to run.

Herr Helmut Wiesenthal and Herr Norbert Kostede, two of the Green leaders, said at a press conference that Herr Rau's "superman strategy" of trying to obtain an absolute majority for the SPD was in ruins.

The latest opinion poll, published yesterday in *Die Welt*, gives the CDU-CSU coalition 44.8 per cent, compared with 48.7 per cent a month ago. The SPD share of the vote is 36.7 per cent, compared with 34.8 per cent last month, the Greens share is 9.5 per cent (a drop from 11.7 per cent), and the FDP share is 8.5 per cent, a rise of 2.5 per cent. Herr Rau has gained in popularity, according to the opinion poll, but he is still six points behind Herr Kohl, with 34 per cent to the Chancellor's 40 per cent.



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Policemen killed in Cape township

Mr Tian Jiyun, the Vice-Premier, in an earlier meeting with Mr Takahashi, was quoted by *People's Daily* as saying: "Our reform of the political structure must take place under the leadership of the party."

A commentary in *People's Daily* said an official from the party's discipline and inspection commission headed by Mr Chen Yun, a party conservative, called for the renewed teaching of party principles and party history on university campuses.

Students at Nanjing University and Nanjing Industrial Institute last month demonstrated specifically against having to take examinations that tested political know-

reformers which generally lower income tax rates to a maximum of 48 per cent on incomes of more than 3,100 shekels (£1,410) a month, with a further 10 per cent surcharge on incomes of more than 9,000 (£4,100) shekels a month.

These tax reforms, along with the cuts in subsidies, have run into strong opposition from the small left-wing parties and some sections of the Labour Party inside the coalition Government.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader and Foreign Minister, who worked out the package with Mr Moshe Nissim, the Likud Finance Minister, has promised that it will not cause unemployment.

Mr Nissim has forecast that the new exchange rate will remain stable and inflation will not rise too steeply. Mr Mikail Bruno, the governor of the Bank of Israel, has predicted, however, that there will be a 6 per cent increase in the cost of living over the next two months as a direct result of the package.

But the Vatican maintains normal diplomatic ties even with repressive and dictatorial regimes," the letter said.

The cardinal's sympathetic statements about the plight of the Palestinians has fired much of the Jewish anger. Mr. Siegman retorted that the reason the Palestinian problem continues is "better than the moral and political bankruptcy of Palestinian leadership."

Much of the Jewish anger rests on a remark by Cardinal "Connor after he emerged from a visit to a Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem. He said the Holocaust was "an enormous gift" of Judaism to the world, a remark which, as the *Washington Post* pointed out yesterday, was "Catholic terminology with which many of his Jewish listeners were

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The Great War
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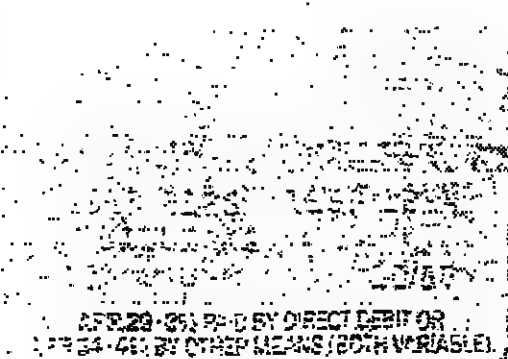
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SPECTRUM

Who's out on the streets on the coldest night of the year? Two tales of the city

Down and out of sight . . .

Midnight: South Bank. A roll, a cup of soup and a cardboard box. . . cold comfort for thousands of the capital's homeless citizens.

Alan Franks reports on the shame of London

On the coldest January night in half a century, the young man from the St Mungo Community took off his trousers beneath a railway arch at Waterloo and handed them to a tramp who was at the time burning his own pair on an open fire. It was just past 10pm, and the slowly incinerating garment represented the old man's last hope of fuel on an evening when the temperature had dropped to eight degrees below zero and a Siberian wind was scything its way across the Thames.

The only light aspect of the episode — described with something between despair and irony by the St Mungo man as "the ultimate act of Christian charity" — was that he himself was wearing another pair underneath, and that anyway the top pair had been donated for the use of down-and-outs at the West End hostel where he works.

The trouser-burner was one of three freezing figures of indeterminate age, huddled around their fading embers like something straight from Hogarth. One arch to the north, in the Hole in the Wall pub, middle-class commuters, sun-drenched from Surrey by frozen points, also loitered, but in fur hats and thermal wellies, oblivious as ever to the scene on the other side of the brickwork.

Some people seem to think that homelessness and destitution have all but gone away, like snog, or tuberculosis, or 20 per cent inflation. You do not have to spend long on London's Other South Bank during such a night to know that not only is this a false appraisal, but also that the age profile of such people ("tramps" has to suffice as a generic term) is getting younger.

There is still a community of just over 100, mostly male and of every age from the teens upward, and still virtually unknown to the commuter and concert-goer, which has carved out a sort of accommodation in the concrete cavern beneath the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Rooms. On one side, in the angle beneath the floor and the inward-leaning buttresses, they have assembled a row of screens, made up mainly of boarding and mattresses which provide them with tiny triangular cells, like a room in the edge of an attic.

One occupant of these is a man in his late fifties, an ex-building worker from Durham. He is divorced, with four grown-up children, and this is what he says of the place: "It's private. It's clean. You don't get any bother from the police. They let us live here quietly. They don't clear us out or move us on. And the cleaners from the concert halls, they're all right too. We get to know some of them quite well. Oh, but there's thieves about, you know. Filthy thieves. That's something I can't stick — taking other people's property. If you

want to know about down here, you ask Clive. He's the guy 'n'or." Clive has lived here for four years. Before that he spent three years at one of the other well-known "down-and-out colonies" at Lincoln's Inn Fields, and before that he was in the army for 12 years. He is a quiet, well-mannered man who explains, without apparent rancour: "Obviously we can't afford houses or flats. Personally, I don't want anything to do with hostels. For a start, they cost far more than you can afford on £29.40 a week, and then there's all the rules and regulations. You can't do this and you can't do that, and you've got to be in by such and such a time. It's not for me."

Just beyond the end of this "terrace" is a pair of detached shanties which might for all the world have been taken from the slum outskirts of a Latin American city. These are at present lived in by several young men in their late teens and early twenties. One of them explains: "We try and get work during the day. No way we're down-and-out. We do work in the hotels, or on the building sites, mostly. We just can't afford anything else, it's as simple as that. We came down to London hoping to find somewhere to live, but the places don't exist."

It is the cold, not the discomfort, that is the most remorseless enemy on nights like this. By 11pm, across the railway arch have managed somehow to get hold of a British rail baggage-truck with high meshed sides, across which they have draped two blankets, and the contraption makes a rough sort of windbreak.

At about this time of night, the soup vans make their rounds. They are run mainly by the Salvation Army or an organization called Bowdoin Night Shelter, and arrive at the four main sites in Central London like warm yellow oblongs of solace. Sometimes, in their wake, come the stragglers from north of the river, grown-up Oliver Twists asking for more.

Even in the view of those working in the field, it is impossible to make an accurate estimate of the number of people living their lives in these conditions. Six years ago a joint study carried out by the London Boroughs Association and the Greater London Council put the figure at 5,000. Some workers at the St Mungo Community now reckon that the number has doubled.

Three main reasons are cited: first, the spiralling costs of freehold properties, and the increasing scarcity of rented premises, both of which have put considerable strains on housing associations and charitable organizations; second, the closure of large-scale hostels like the Rowton Houses and the



The other side of the South Bank: one of London's many homeless faces a night on the street with only the soup van to look forward to.

shift by the National Health Service away from residential care for psychiatric patients; and third, the effects of the 1985 legislation which decreed that accommodation costs for the homeless below the age of 25 would not be borne by the Department of Health and Social Security in any given area for longer than eight weeks.

But there are other factors. Mick Carroll, director of the St Mungo hostel at Endell Street, off Shaftsbury Avenue, puts it like this: "What makes it all so difficult is that in many cases sleeping out is people's way of telling society that they don't want to come back into it. Them being out there on the pavements is a statement in itself. Some won't even sign on, for the same reasons. They would rather

sleep rough and support themselves from casual labour like washing up in restaurants than queue up at the DHSS."

It is a theme echoed by the director of the St Mungo Community Housing Association, John Lane: "Many of the people we are dealing with feel, and they may be right, that they have been made to suffer as a direct result of the way in which society is organized. The last thing they want to do is go and sit for hours at one of the DHSS offices in a cold room, being served by people who themselves have a grudge against their own employer. The other thing you have to bear in mind is that, partly because of industrial action during the past year, and partly because of chronic understaffing, some of these DHSS

offices have only been open for an hour or two per day."

None the less, when a Social Security Giro cheque is collected by one of the members of the cardboard community beneath the railway bridge at Embankment, perhaps the most beleaguered and depressing one of all, the occasion is treated like Christmas, and there are drinks all round.

Mick Carroll reckons that castigating the present government is too glib a response, particularly since it was Labour's laws which depleted the stock of cheap rented housing. Neither he nor his colleagues claim that society will ever be free of a diaspora of casualties

littering the pavements of an ice-bound capital at four in the morning. Rather, they point to the alarming ease with which anyone can fall down the baggy board of society and finish up beneath the arches, whether for reasons of family rejection, depression, alcohol, mental illness, or, paradoxically, pride.

By seven o'clock yesterday morning, every carton and blanket and sleeping bag and newspaper and beer can and person had been removed from the Embankment, with only the chalk scrawls on the wall — "Flat 7, Andy's... Flat 8, Paul's" — to remind you that it is a place of human habitation. The only certain thing about the problem is that they will all be back again tonight.

Loyal to old wheels

Elvis may have ridden a Honda, but the Norton motorcycle is revving up again

Sandy Barrie was 16 when the Japanese invasion began. The year was 1966, and the Japanese motorcycle industry was tearing its way through the British market. Elvis Presley was riding a Honda in Rome, and thousands of British youths started to desert the great British names in motorcycles for Suzuki and Honda. But not Sandy, a member of the Norton Owners Club who bought a Norton Dominator, drove it to death, and went on to a Commando 850. But by the time he was in his twenties the British motorcycle trade was crumbling into liquidation, and he too was forced to go Japanese.

"That was the worst day of my life," says Sandy. "The withdrawal symptoms were horrendous."

He has since bought another, second-hand, Commando. Today there are still thousands like Sandy who would not swap a second-hand Commando for a brand new Suzuki.

Norton Villiers Triumph was formed in 1973, but Japanese competition proved too strong. When its shareholders decided to go into voluntary liquidation last year, its largest subsidiary, Blackburn Small Engines, said Norton Motors and the rights and trademarks of famous British motorcycle names. Yesterday Sir Norton Villiers Triumph Group PLC announced that they were back in the bike business, having bought all the names



including the Shovelhead plant in Staffordshire, which was set up in 1978 to develop a new rotary engine. NVT will be producing the first civilian motorcycle to be powered by the new engine; for the past three years they have made a motorcycle with a rotary engine for the British police. The Interpol 2. Its competitor is a BMW. However, according to Constable Dighton, of Thames Valley Police, the Interpol 2 "handles better, rides smoother and is better designed for the job."

But motorcycle sales in the United Kingdom continue to fall each year: over 300,000 in the 1950s, just over 100,000 today. Philippe Le Roux, Managing Director of the new NVT group, is quick to point out that he has no intention of competing with the Japanese for a dwindling motorcycle market. "We will be producing a bike with the most advanced technology in the world — a dream machine." But do things which dreams are made of work? Lord Hesketts lost £1 million in Formula One racing, went on to lose another million in an attempt to recreate the British motorcycle industry. But Philippe Le Roux says: "Lord Hesketts's venture into motorcycles was completely new — the risks were enormous. However, we have already developed our technology."

Surprisingly enough Lord Hesketts agrees. "The rotary engine is very light and quick and is ideal for 'superbike' sales." If they get the break they're looking for, it should go very well.

Roland Rudd

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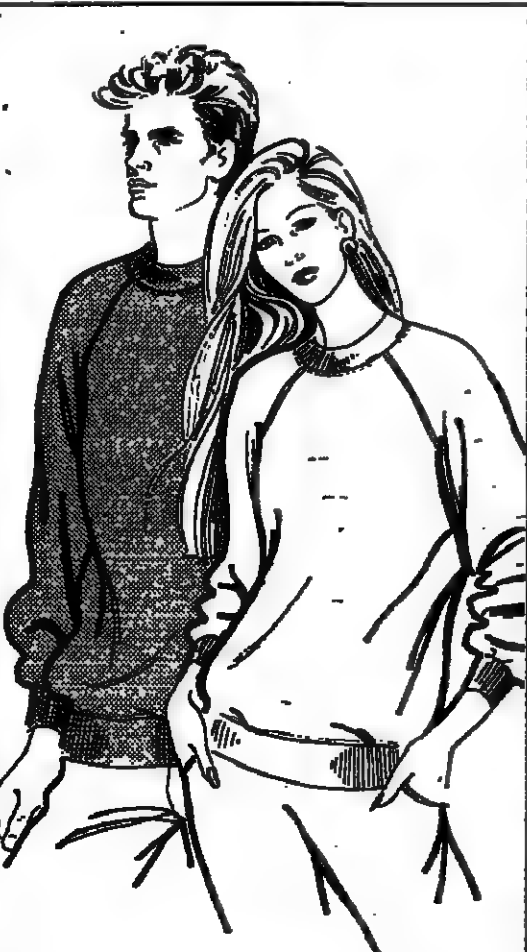
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4am: Covent Garden
Peter Brown meets the smart set in search of a ticket

Along the side wall of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, three plastic bags huddled in a doorway as the snow swept down Floral Street. The plastic bag on the left spoke up: "Where you thinking of spending the night? Please take a ticket and give me your name. It will save unpleasantness in the morning."

Sadly her tickets were not those for last night's premier of *Otello* — the opera of the film — a new production with Placido Domingo and his co-stars. They were raffle tickets, designed to prevent queuing.

Not only first in the line, but holder of the ticket-book, the plastic bag was a veteran queuer. She had started at midday on Monday. Any tips? "You will need coffee and a lot of patience," she said firmly.

Across the road the box office lights had dimmed but the words in the window were still discernible: "65 rear amphitheatre seats are available to personal applicants on the day of performance... a limit of one per applicant will be made." For this production, sold out, indeed over-subscribed 10 times, these one-day tickets represented the only hope for opera-lovers disappointed in the ballot. About 25 of us, clad in plastic sheets and moonboots, were prepared to face the January night at fresco for the privilege.

The couple in the next doorway were settling down, having placed their trust in foam rubber, bin bags and balaclavas. He wore a black face mask — terrorist chic. She



Box office blues: waiting in frozen line for a ticket to the opera

had the old school's cadet corps uniform and a Bud Flanagan coat. We fell to discussing the implications of the raffle ticket system. "I suppose," said the terrorist "that if 65 utter yobs turned up tomorrow morning we could all gang up on them. I can be very aggressive, if pushed."

Somehow it didn't seem likely, and as the last customers left the Happy Wok Restaurant opposite, the street people struggled into their sleeping bags and attempted to sleep. The assembled company looked very like something the Opera House had left out for the dustman.

Any one who has not spent a winter's night in the open can have little idea of the depth the cold can penetrate, the cracks the damp can infiltrate. Sleep for most proved impossible. Some, like many before them, took to the bottle. Corks popped, and time was whittled away in friendly conversation — "Strangely, I had rarely admired Ricciardi until I heard her in the film" — or in directing the odd newcomer to the First Plastic Bag for a ticket.

At 4am, in the doorway to

the left, Andy Bonham — "No relation or I wouldn't be standing in this ruddy queue" — aged 19, from Matlock, Derbyshire, shivered in his yellow oilskins. Was he an opera-lover? "No. Fear. A lady's paying me £25 to do this. I've not done it before and I'm never ready doing it again."

Down the line, towards Bow Street, 11-year-old Maya complained of cold feet. "It was her idea to do this," her mother said. "She loves opera and Placido is her hero. Her sister's into Madonna, but there you are."

Slowly the queue lengthened. In the middle of the road Neil Armstrong, lookalikes shuffled around in the flurry of snow. Occasionally, a little ballet enlivened the scene as someone warmed frozen feet (the knock is to keep them off the ground). But there was bitterness in the air and it came from the Friends of Covent Garden.

"It's not good enough," said Mrs Joyce Hanson. "You pay £21 a year for priority treatment and what do you get? Nothing. They have one big production like this and everyone's ticket goes into the ballot. Everyone's."

... queues of distinction

"I know people," she said, confidentially, "who aren't Friends. But they've had tickets." Surely not? But yes — "I've written to the director, but he never replies."

When *Otello* was first performed in Milan a hundred years ago, the composer took twenty curtain calls and his carriage was pulled to his hotel by admirers. "Verdi, Verdi," they are reported to have shouted, until 3am. Then, presumably, they gave up.

In Floral Street we were made of sterner stuff. We lasted it out, all of us, until 10am, when the most civilized collection of dossers in London received their reward at the box office — and not a hint of shoving or queue-jumping, though touts were reported to be asking £200 for a £7.50 ticket. The First Plastic Bag had trained us well.

Roland Rudd

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1155

1 Commotion (8)	7 Tyrolean stringed instrument (6)	15 Chinese martial art (4,2)
5 Swing, trad (4)	8 Purty (8)	17 Sweet chestnut (6)
9 Criminal assistant (7)	11 Lock of hair (5)	19 Size of mind (6)
10 Habitual resort (5)	12 Damsel one oil (5)	21 Sin of mind (6)
11 Lock of hair (5)	13 Tail structure (5)	22 Child's apron (3)
12 Damsel one oil (5)	14 Australian native bear (5)	
13 Tail structure (5)	15 Indian pole (5)	
14 Australian native bear (5)	16 Irutable (5)	
15 Indian pole (5)	17 Sweet chestnut (6)	
16 Irutable (5)	18 Twelve down (5)	
17 Sweet chestnut (6)	19 Size of mind (6)	
18 Twelve down (5)	20 Pecker (7)	
19 Size of mind (6)	21 Sin of mind (6)	
20 Pecker (7)	22 Child's apron (3)	
21 Sin of mind (6)		
22 Child's apron (3)		

SOLUTION TO NO 1154
ACROSS: 1 Beaver 5 Salam 8 Elm 9 Viking 10 Expose 11 Merc 12 Meddian 14 Proving ground 17 Scourge 19 Loss 21 Midrib 23 Embury 24 Ado 25 Deaden 26 Nugget
DOWN: 2 Bille 3 Voiceover 4 Regiment 5 Smeas 6 Loop 7 Abzain 13 Doodled 15 Routine 16 Gudgeon 18 Urban 20 Side 22 Rid

WEDNESDAY PAGE

The growing pains of a four-year-old

THE THREE AGES OF CHILDHOOD



Part 2: Toddlers

I have sometimes thought, lately, that there is a magically protective quality in the fact that a baby or toddler has a cheerful, roundish, uncompromising sort of shape: solid chubby legs seem to go well with an optimistic and practical outlook on life. A toddler's jokes are uproarious, his wishes imperious, his temper uncontrollable and his actions — as far as he is concerned — totally without consequences. Someone will mop it up. Someone will mend it. We shall buy another one, Mummy.

Then the child changes shape: everything grows lengthways and slims down. Fat legs turn into long spindly ones, the protruding tummy develops graceful hollows, and suddenly your ex-baby has begun to turn large, worried, wondering eyes on the rest of the universe. Why is it raining? Will the mouse never come alive again if Tibby bites it dead? Will I go to prison if I say a rude word?

When I wrote *How Not to be a Perfect Mother* (Fontana, £2.95), I firmly announced a cut-off point at the age of about three-and-a-half, as I had never seen the sense of baby books which try to cover 0-5 in one volume. Early on, the common qualities between children of different ages are all six-month-old babies grab the spoon when you try to feed them, all new walkers pull things off tables on to their heads. There are plenty of useful generalizations you can make about babies and toddlers. After four years, though, children stand apart, each on a private platform of heredity, chance and conditioning. They

When the fat turns lean and the eyes widen with unspoken questions, we know a baby has become a toddler. Libby Purves on the fun and bewilderment of an infant world ripe for new discoveries

begin to show clues as to what they are: intellectual, athlete, socialite, engineer. They are no longer big babies.

When the fat legs vanish, the spindly child seems to take on vast new abilities and concerns. Some are purely pleasurable — pedalling bikes, swinging by your arms, drawing recognizable pictures, choosing friends, finishing a building properly instead of getting bored halfway through like a toddler. The sheer competence of a four-year-old is a marvel to most parents. The sort of father who has been wary of nappies and tantrums suddenly becomes eager to take his four-year-old out for a day's adventures, a mother with younger babies revels in having a clever, independent little runner of errands.

When at last the day comes to stand at the school gates and watch her child marching into a new world, she may be proud, but is certainly, for a while, lonely.

But growing up is tough. This four-year-old stage is almost like a rehearsal for adolescence, inasmuch as the child is grasping all sorts of concepts and adult truths which rock the foundations of his small world. Death, for instance, you can comfortably tell a two-year-old that Grandad has gone to Heaven; a couple of years later the same child strikes him with a new and awful significance because he understands it more fully. Even if you use the idea of Heaven to soften the blow, you have to admit that people don't come back from it. Ever. This has so appalled my son that even the bang-bang you're-dead games get modified in our house. "I'll shoot yer dead,



Rose," he says to his sister. "But not dead to Heaven. Just bang dead."

Smaller matters than death cause upsets too. For months we were driven crazy by the droning repetition of "I want one of my own". We could no longer go, as we had six months earlier, to a Steam Fair or a railway museum and share the uncomplicated joys of looking at the machines. Our two-year-old daughter happily waves goodbye at the end of a day's treat; her anxious brother nags all the way home for a steam locomotive "of my own", a private cinema, or a real traction engine to keep in his bedroom. He sometimes gets quite aggressive about it. Our irritation is only held in check by the theory that he is trying to express a sort of shock and fear at having realized the temporariness of things that treat and visits come to an end, earth's comforts flee and pleasures pass away.

The baby lives blithely for the moment; the child learns to bear a burden of unfulfilled or delayed longings. Time is long, the four-year-old is delighted with the idea. Stories about when Mummy was little, or countries far away, or what he can do when he is a man, all get a rapidly attentive audience. On a bad day, he wants the world to be small and cosy again.

All parents seem to get patches when their child clings desperately to home at all costs, and refuses point-blank to go to the playgroup



After babyhood: now aged four, full of fun, before starting school

where he has been perfectly happy for a year. He prefers the boredom of sitting on the floor beside a furiously busy Mummy. He doesn't want to do big brave grown-up things or have new books read. He wants to sit on a knee and have the 10,000th reading of *Polly Pig and the Bee* (my least favourite children's book of all time). Social life is eagerly sought — all the baby books stress in a Pollyannaish way how much pre-school children enjoy playing with one another — but I have observed that some time shortly after tea, my son and all his contemporaries become exhausted, bewildered, and start to hate the sight of each other. One by one, they retire to their respective Mummies' knees, and their thumbs drift up to their mouths. Suddenly, the questions they

ask become real and pressing. One child, noticing the Manchester air crash inquiry on the news, asked about it, then enquired: "Why are they still talking about it, if it happened so long ago?" Famine and disaster on early evening television lead to searching, distressing, obvious questions; the sort of Bob Geldof-questions that preoccupy Western adults train themselves not to ask, or answer. Parental warnings about not talking to strangers lead to the most difficult questions of all: Why would some men hurt me? Are grown-ups bad sometimes?

Attempts at social discipline lead to even more impossible conversations. Children's logic is inexorable: watch any anxious liberal parent struggling to reconcile trendy openness about bodies with an absolute ban on

taking out your willy and waving it at Auntie Flo.

Now that the child is so capable, inter-family competition heats up, especially in the more tiresome sections of the middle classes. James can write his whole name. Emma scrapes away at a Suzuki miniature violin. Rosamund did a sponsored walk and drew a picture.

Achievements are used as social counters, and woe betide the child whose brilliance manifests itself in less easily measurable ways. One of my mother's best-remembered moments was when my brother and his cousin were jointly presented with a set of picture dominoes. The cousin began carefully to lay flower against flower, pussycat against pussycat; Michael stuck them indiscriminately, end to end and went "choo-choo-

choo". Forty-love to the other mother.

We are too obsessed with early education these days, with falling primary school rolls, it takes real social courage to decide you won't send a child to school in his "rising five" term, but keep him home in peace for a few months longer. It would be sad if adult competitiveness brought down shades of the prison house too early on any dreaming four-year-old.

When my son was tiny, I used to watch him playing alone on the beach on his chubby legs, and think of Sir Isaac Newton's words at the end of his life: "To myself I seem to have been only a boy playing on the seashore... whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me".

In those days, as a toddler, my own boy really was concerned only with the beach, taking each shiny stone as it came. Now, his eyes are raised in half-troubled wonderment: he has noticed the great ocean of undiscovered truth stretching away from his feet. And he is not quite ready to confront it yet.

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How Not to Be a Perfect Mother (Fontana, £2.95).

FRIDAY

Dealing with the problems of an imperfect ten

"Was it a physical problem?" the reporters asked Commanding Officer Colonel Moore at the briefing on Monday when Prince Edward officially left the Marines.

"I'm glad you asked that question," Colonel Moore said. He had obviously been a bit nervous in that area, his self because he had checked up on it with Edward's instructors. "I can say," answered the Colonel enthusiastically, "that Prince Edward has all the necessary physical equipment (pause)... and the acumen to complete his training satisfactorily."

The nation breathed a collective sigh of relief. Now one could turn to the prospect of choosing the right job for the unemployed Prince without worrying about any prosthetic needs.

A lot of young people will also be heaving a sigh of relief at the Prince's actions. The Royal Family is still a role model for families of the Queen's children have seemed until now to be protected from the hesitations and false starts that most of us go through when leaving school.

However unpleasant the last few weeks may have been for Prince Edward, he should take some comfort in knowing

'Edward gives respectability to the hit and miss job dilemma of young people'

that he will have given a measure of respectability to the dilemmas of young people as they hit and miss in their first jobs.

Two schools of thought, broadly speaking, seem to have emerged on the Edward affair. One school seems very unhappy that an immediate member of the Royal Family has packed it in and will not be wearing a uniform (at the moment, anyway). The other school seems to feel that the time has come for our young Princes to lead the nation in becoming a little more realistic in their job choices. "Why doesn't he choose something he's interested in?" a friend remarked to me. "After all, he could get a job anywhere."

Historically speaking, I suppose the underlying impulse that has always sent our princes into the armed forces was the idea of the strong King-protector. The Prince was supposed to get involved in the defence of the realm in order to better prepare himself for that time when it was his direct responsibility. Having



Escape: can Prince Edward break the Royal mould?

said that, history can also make out a good case for princes not involving themselves in this aspect of their job. Many a Bavarian state might have been better off had their princelings stuck to the demanding job of designing architectural follies and toy theatres — or gone into acting. The constitutional monarchy has made a literal interpretation of the Prince as defender of the realm a bit of an anachronism. Now, they

can best help the nation by continuing to do what the Royal Family has done remarkably well: have babies do good deeds, work day and night at enticing tourists to the land and generally remind us all that the extended family is still the best device we have for keeping the social fabric strong and compassionate.

In a purely personal sense, one can only sympathise with Prince Edward. I can't quite understand what it is that the

Commandos do to get that green beret but it does seem to involve a lot of yomping through swamps in spotted outfits with sergeants barking at you. I take without question Colonel Moore's assurance that Edward was quite up to this, but I can't blame him for not embracing the platoon as a lifetime occupation. On the other hand, while I don't want to be in the position of suggesting that anyone should do something I myself would not do, like most people I am not only paid to be different, they are appointed to be different.

For them, the concept noblesse oblige has a concrete base of privilege. And privilege does entail responsibility. These days, mind you, the ancient bargain under which royalty received power and privilege in exchange for giving us leadership and protection has been considerably amended. Since both power and privilege have been reduced, perhaps the expectations we have of our princes should be suitably reduced.

The way we handle our prince will probably determine the way they handle us and I expect we will just have to resign ourselves to seeing Edward or at least his successors in social work and urban studies. One can only hope that they don't get the Scandinavian bug and start bicycling to Islington.

There has been some chat about Edward, who is described as the most intellectually inclined of the Royals, returning to an academic career. This would be a perfectly reasonable thing to do. Mind you, it is worth noting that even though Edward's 9 A levels are at least 11 more than Princess Di ever managed, that does not automatically speak to a dourish life.

In the meantime, I think we all wish him well. The Marines may be "disappointed" but they will find more suitable recruits. Perhaps in our day and age it is just as well for the safety of the realm that Prince Edward continue his fine work in the theatre and leave the Commando tactics to those in our nation who are best equipped for it. Like Maggie Thatcher perhaps.

Barbara Amiel

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In dark glasses

TALKBACK

From Nicola Saxon
Manningham Gardens,
Westcliff, Essex

I was shocked at the figures in Jenny Woolf's article (Under-aged — over the limit, December 29). Like most teenagers, I wouldn't have thought of alcohol abuse as much of a problem. More campaigns are needed to scare teenagers. If more could be done through Government campaigns and advertising to change alcohol's glossy image among teenagers, then I'm sure that alcohol abuse by those under 18 would fall dramatically.

From David T Tweedie,
157 Spital Road,
Dorchester,
Wiltshire

I applaud Jenny Woolf's article for throwing into sharp relief the problems of alcohol abuse and the government's inertia. Could it be that there are too many vested interests for anything to be done?

The first step must be to ban television advertising of alcohol. The young are most vulnerable to this form of advertising, much of which is screened in the early evening. The swamping of the

Government's recent drink-driving campaign by the alcohol producers' virtual saturation of television advertising time makes one ask: where is the logic of it? Where the money is — that's where!

From John Douglas,
West Bridgford, Nottingham

One recent development does more to encourage under-age drinking than almost anything else — the club "party". The premises of a club, together with its well-stocked bar, can be hired by teenagers. The club sells a block of tickets to the party-giver to cover the costs of hire. The tickets are sold by the party-giver. No questions about age are asked. Drinks are often advertised as being at "half price".

These clubs, choosing to arrange teenage parties on otherwise slack nights, make their profits largely from under-age drinkers who crowd the bar until midnight or later. It is a blatant example of exploitation of youngsters.

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The Cordon Bleu Cookery School, 114 Marylebone Lane, London W1. Telephone: 01-935 3501.

BRIEFLY
A round-up of news, views and information

Toddler travel

Travelling abroad with a young son, Anne-Lucie Norton yearned for a guide informing parents how differing countries, airlines, and other travel companies help and hinder young families on the move — for instance by offering discounts or nursing facilities. The result of her research is her invaluable handbook, *Babytravel* (St John's Wood Press, £5.95), packed with practical advice to ensure a trouble-free trip.

There are tips on dealing with bored or ill children, an SOS vocabulary in five languages and insight into which nations welcome children with open arms.

Thermal aid

Damart — renowned for cosy thermal underwear — have now produced the first comprehensive brochure aimed solely at people with back problems. As well as featuring warm clothing, heat pads, cool packs and useful gadgets to make lifting or reaching easier, there's sensible advice for chronic sufferers to help understand (and hopefully, overcome) their back problems and weaknesses. For a free copy of the booklet, write to Damart, Bowling Green Mills, Bingley, BD16 4BH.

Help to heal

Healing the wounds and easing the despair of grief can be a lengthy process; often, losing a loved one even makes it hard to concentrate on the printed word. So through *Cruise* (the National Organisation for the Widowed and Their Children), Elizabeth Collick — who was widowed over 20 years ago — has produced an audio-cassette version of her book, *Through Grief*, to enable the

Quote me . . .



When people, women included, hear that you are writing, they assume that it is simply a hobby to fill in time between doing the washing up and the ironing. It couldn't possibly be a profession.

— novelist Rachael Billington

Cosy money

The past few years have seen a trend towards working from home — for housebound mothers and those looking for an alternative challenge. But where to begin and how do you avoid traditional pitfalls, such as undercharging for your services? Family Circle magazine's founding editor Chris-

Brady has been self-employed for several years, and her informative book *The Home Earner* (Corgi, £3.95) covers every aspect of home working from deciding on your niche, marketing your skills, dealing with tax, keeping accounts, and working within any relevant regulations right through to pricing yourself fairly. Featuring dozens of case histories, it's easy to understand and while it might not make your fortune, no would-be self-employee should start without such sound advice.

Sale sell

Avid antique collectors too overworked to scour the sale-rooms, out-of-towners or individuals searching for that perfect piece can now turn to a young London woman to help. Patricia Dakin has set up Going, Going, Gone, a sale-room search company which does the homework for you, informing you when any of the major London auction houses are having sales in the areas you're passionate about (from wine to four-poster beds), and for a small fee she will report on specific pieces and make a bid on your behalf, often saving you a journey from hundreds of miles away. Subscriptions are £25 per quarter, so for more details, telephone 01-622 4659 or write to 30 Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UR.

Josephine Fairley

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THE TIMES DIARY

Collapse of stout party?

Is the association between Guinness and Sir Gordon Reece, the Tories' former top PR, about to come to an abrupt end with the departure of chairman Ernest Saunders? Mrs Thatcher's champagne-tipping Svengali was taken on by Saunders — a personal friend — in 1975 to help maintain the take-over of whisky distiller Arthur Bell and remained on a retainer, rumoured to be up to £50,000 a year. I understand that Tory party friends privately warned Reece to get out before the climax of the DFI investigation. Certainly, with Labour MPs demanding the resignation of Paul Channon, the Trade Secretary, because of his family links with Guinness, the government needs no further connections. Yesterday, Guinness told me it believed Reece was no longer working for it but later said he was continuing to be paid his "small retainer". Sir Gordon was unavailable.

Unsmash hits

The cast of the BBC *EastEnders* soap opera has proved a fruitful recruiting ground for CND. Norman Tebbit will be sorry to hear. Anna Wong, who plays grandmother Lou Beale, appeared on the cover of the organization's monthly magazine, *Sanity*, in December. Tom Watt, who plays Lofy, has been interviewed for CND's youth magazine, and Leonard Fenton, "Dr Legge", frequently opens CND fund-raising events. A CND spokesman tells me that TV stars are regularly canvassed for support with success. "We've had so much stuff from *EastEnders* that we couldn't fit it all into our last newsletter," she said. The only rebuff appears to have been from Dirty Den, alias Leslie Grantham, who said his politics were his own affair.

Spotted on a list of Lincoln Cathedral services: "09.30 Sung Eucharist. Presider — Deaconess J Laidlaw, Associate Pester." Fair comment on the ordination of women?

Rapt

The big freeze did not prevent 10 loyal fans from seeing Flaco Domingo in *Orlito* at the Royal Opera House last night. To ensure they got their £7.50 seats, they began queuing at lunchtime on Monday and braved the night's chill by wrapping up in blankets, black rubbish bags and sheets of foil. They got their tickets.

Breezy Bruce

Journalist Bruce Arnold, just awarded £20,000 because of a telephone tap by officials of Charles Haughey's government, has a knack of getting up the noses of Irish prime ministers. An expatriate Londoner, celebrated in Dublin for his plus-fours and English airs, Arnold was attacked by Liam Cosgrave at his 1977 party conference for a series of stories he was running. To the delight of the press benches, Cosgrave spoke of a "blow-in who should blow up or blow out." His foreign minister, Garret FitzGerald, later privately apologized. Arnold recalled yesterday.

BARRY FANTONI



'Struggling to work? Not me — I'm training for the car race'

Flourish

I was not the first to draw attention to Lord Hailsham's signature (PHS January 12). As long ago as 1963 it attracted the admiration of Averell Harriman, President Kennedy's special adviser, who with Andrei Gromyko and Hailsham (then Minister of Science) initiated the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in Moscow. According to Walter Isaacson and Evan Thomas in their new book, *The Wise Men*, Harriman regarded Hailsham as shallow and ill-prepared. But of Hailsham's initialing of the document, he marvelled: "Did you see his M? It was very beautiful."

Lambeth's way

The near-bankrupt Lambeth Council has just decided to give £3,500 to its Trades Union Resource Centre to carry out research into the effects in Lambeth of the News International dispute. Lambeth is on the other side of the river to Wapping, some way upstream and not obviously connected to the dispute. I am told that the money will be spent on subjects like assessing whether the readership of News International papers has changed. Needless to say it was voted through under emergency procedures, without the matter being discussed by the full council.

PHS

Like many important documents issued by government, the annual Expenditure White Paper (this year's is out today) is systematically misleading. It tends to focus attention on the expenditure planning total as the test of whether the government has met its objectives and of the accuracy of the Chancellor's fiscal marksmanship. In fact, large parts of spending which are not under direct Treasury control are included in the planning total. It would be fairer to concentrate on those areas where the Treasury undoubtedly does have responsibility.

One approach is to divide public expenditure into two categories — spending on goods and services, and transfer payments. With the first, the government spends the money itself; with transfer payments, by contrast, it receives taxes from one set of people and distributes the revenue to others, making no purchases in its own name. The level of transfer payments depends on the rate of payment and the number of beneficiaries. Unless a government is intent on political suicide, neither can be easily altered.

Of course, governments can try to cut the old age pension or the level of unemployment benefit, but they are soon likely to encounter the political reality that there are too many Good Samaritans in Whitehall and the media, and too many welfare recipients in the nation at large, for their attempts to succeed. Meanwhile the number of beneficiaries is determined by forces — such as demography or world economic conditions — almost wholly outside official control.

The difficulties in controlling transfer payments justify placing the emphasis, in any discussion of

Spending: the true extent of Tory success

by Tim Congdon

a government's success in limiting public spending, on direct expenditure on goods and services. This emphasis can also be defended on the grounds that transfer payments do not make a specific claim on the nation's resources. Apart from the paperwork and bureaucracy involved, no person or machine is employed as a result of switching £10 billion of spending power from one group in society to another.

But, when the government spends £10 billion more on hospitals, schools and roads, it has to recruit more people and place orders for extra equipment. Resources which might have been used elsewhere are pre-empted by the state. Unlike the level of transfer payments, expenditure on goods and services is therefore a measure of the strain the public sector is placing on the economy. For a government eager to expand private provision at the expense of public, it is more important to contain expenditure on goods and services than to curb the growth of transfer payments.

It is well known, and amply confirmed by the latest white paper, that the Thatcher government has had great trouble

controlling public expenditure as a whole. Indeed, according to the measure favoured by the white paper, government expenditure (excluding privatization proceeds) was higher as a share of gross domestic product in 1986/87 than in 1979/80. But, if we look solely at current expenditure on goods and services, the position is quite different and much more flattering. In the five years to 1986 government spending on goods and services went up by 5.6 per

GROWTH OF PUBLIC SPENDING 1981-86

Year	Government expenditure on goods and services (% increase over five-year periods)	GDP Spending
1981-86	15.9	8.2
1976-81	13.8	2.8
1971-76	18.2	12.3
1966-71	14.0	9.0
1961-66	12.0	18.4
1956-61	2.6	4.0
1951-56	13.3	5.6

GDP assumed to have risen 2% per cent in 1986, and general government consumption £13,000m (in 1986 prices) in 4th quarter 1986.

Source: Economic Trends

Christopher Walker on the growing disquiet over economic and social reform

Chill winds of challenge to Gorbachov



many are surprised that it is taking him so long.

Gorbachov, who immediately despatched a Kremlin trouble-shooter to Alma-Ata, has so far shown a willingness to face his opponents head on. He has repeatedly warned in public and private of the need to defeat the old guard. In a memorable phrase, he told a meeting of Soviet writers last year: "The process must be made irreversible. If not us, then who? If not now, when?"

It is in the heavily repressed field of Soviet culture that his reform programme has been greeted with the greatest enthusiasm, with hardly a day now passing without another Brezhnev-created cultural barrier being stormed by artists, writers and musicians.

The heady new mood (which many intellectuals are realistic enough to realize may be only temporary) was summed up by the film critic Yevgeny Surkov, writing about the recent death of the émigré director Andrei Tarkovsky: "Did he, wracked by pain, have enough strength to realize that... the time when bureaucrats edited artists had gone in his homeland and that if he had returned home, nothing could have prevented him from talking with the people about what he believed, and what he wanted so much to assert in his films?"

But it is in the economy where resistance is proving stiffest and where the most vital confrontation between old and new is taking place. Occasionally the obstinate strength of the diehards can be

cent, whereas gross domestic product rose by 13.3 per cent.

As the accompanying table shows, fiscal retrenchment has been greater in the last five years than in any other five-year period since the 1950s. In the decade up to 1981 government spending on goods and services rose faster than GDP. Although expenditure increased more slowly than GDP in the previous decade, the disparity between the two was appreciably less than the 8 per cent gap recorded in the early 1980s.

Moreover, in one respect the early 1980s were unusually awkward for expenditure control because the government was obliged, by its commitment to Nato, to raise defence outlays by 3 per cent a year. By contrast, for most of the post-war period defence spending has declined as a share of GDP. This decline was particularly marked in the 1950s, after the Korean war, and goes far to explain the big difference between the growth of public expenditure and national output in that decade.

If the analysis was focused exclusively on non-defence items, it would probably show that no other five-year period since the war has seen fiscal austerity more rigorous than the early 1980s. Whether this is a reason for praise or reproach obviously depends on one's political standpoint. But, for supporters of the present government, the tightness of the restraint over spending on goods and services has to be regarded as a signal achievement. Squabbles about the precise meaning of the various revisions, adjustment and re-definitions of the planning total should not be allowed to disguise this basic point.

The author is chief economist of stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

experienced at first hand, especially away from the smoothly-run public relations machine in Moscow.

On a visit to the Baltic republic of Estonia, the Kremlin's test-bed for many of its most far-reaching economic experiments, I asked one senior official if I could visit one of the new business co-operative societies to be introduced all over the country. The official denied their existence, though he was later countermanded by a younger, more reform-conscious colleague who took me on an extensive tour of the new enterprises.

The resistance in the middle layer of the Communist bureaucracy has already prompted parallels with the situation in the mid-1960s when another reforming Kremlin leader — the late Nikita Khrushchev — was eventually toppled. "The situation in 1987 is far different from that in 1964", one senior diplomat told me. "But I am sure that Gorbachov has already made enough enemies for some to start thinking the unthinkable."

Gorbachov's revamp of the economic system has so far been cautious compared with that attempted in Hungary or China; but when combined with his drive through the 15 Soviet republics against all forms of corruption (including that inside the KGB and the militia), it has been sufficient to form a potentially dangerous coalition of forces against him. It consists of the ideological hardliners who believe that his initiatives, particularly towards private enterprise and glasnost (openness) in the media, are little short of heresy, and disaffected party officials who feel that their comfortable way of life is under threat from the new experimentation.

Despite the gradually extending boundaries of glasnost (which have not yet extended to providing a casualty toll for the Kazakhstani riots in mid-December), the power struggle is generally taking place behind closed doors. The infighting now has greater significance because of a slight, but detectable, public disenchantment with some of Gorbachov's policies. Particularly disgruntled are those who argue that his posturing on the world stage has so far done little to alleviate the country's chronic shortages.

"We do not drink vodka any more, nor sausage do we have", goes one anecdote frequently heard among Muscovites. "As soon as we come home from work, we tune into Gorbachov."

with provincial forces but has held his Scottish post since 1985. Of all the five major forces it is the West Midlands which is being tipped to produce a future commissioner. Geoffrey Dear, its chief constable, is 49 and has already served in London at a senior level as one of the four assistant commissioners for training, personnel and operations.

Innovative, with a reputation for an open door policy towards the public and press and a desire to grapple with problems, Dear would seem cast in Newman's mould. But he has been in the West Midlands for only a year and the time may not be ripe for another move.

Two outsiders from the smaller provincial forces are Roger Birch, chief constable of Sussex, who was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours list and 46-year-old Brian Hayes, of Surrey. Given the various factors, the Home Office might appoint Imbert in the knowledge that it has at least one suitable provincial chief to groom as a successor.

But all this presupposes that Newman will go this year. Pressed over the last few months, he has offered no hints. And while a five-year term is customary, there is no hard and fast rule; nor is there an official retirement age. Some senior officers are forecasting that he will stay, perhaps for two years. Just more speculation? Perhaps not. When Newman announced his general strategy last year he suggested that it would run for three years.

Stewart Tendler

Christopher Tugendhat

No Big Two trade-off

Since Reykjavik European governments have been agonising over the possibility that the US and the Soviet Union might negotiate a comprehensive arms agreement over their heads, and wracking their brains to find ways of influencing the outcome. By contrast the accord a few weeks later between James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, and Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese Finance Minister, has provoked little European concern.

Yet this accord between the two economic superpowers could presage an accommodation as significant in its own field as anything that might flow from Reykjavik. It is vital that Europe should participate fully in any negotiations.

The key to the US-Japan relationship lies not so much in the absolute size of their economies as in their complementarity. On the one hand that is a source of profound friction; on the other it provides the basis for far-reaching agreement.

Japan's share of world exports is expected to overtake that of the US in the early 1990s. Moreover, Japan's principal market is the United States, and its enormous trade surplus is the biggest single component in the even larger American deficit.

At the same time, Japan has become the world's largest creditor nation and the US its largest debtor. The massive American budget deficit has been made possible, in large part, by Japan's willingness to invest much of its trade-generated surplus in US government bonds. This has allowed Washington to avoid the hard decisions that otherwise would be necessary to increase domestic savings and bring the budget under control.

The IMF has estimated that the US net external debt will rise from 3 per cent of GNP in 1985 to 14 per cent in 1991. Servicing such a debt would impose considerable constraints on the US government, Congress and people.

As Britain discovered in the mid-1970s, living under IMF tutelage is humiliating, severely restricting freedom of action and political aspirations. Is it possible to imagine the United States, the world's largest economy and a strategic superpower on which Japan and its other creditors depend for their ultimate defence, being prepared to submit to such restraints? Others have had little choice but to abide by the rules, but the probability must be that the US will try to change them, if not by agreement then unilaterally.

The two most obvious ways are by legislating to reduce the inflow of foreign goods and by cutting overseas defence commitments. As the new Congress takes over, the possibilities of both are being increasingly discussed.

Either might in theory be aimed specifically at Japan, but in reality all who trade with the United States are likely to suffer. Partly this is because of the political and practical difficulties inherent in devising effective action aimed at one country. Partly too it is because others, including Europe, run large surpluses with the US, and, as the

imbroglio over agriculture shows, are sometimes involved in disputes with it every bit as acrimonious as any involving the Japanese. Besides the biggest and most readily realizable defence savings are to be found in Europe.

It is in everyone's interest to avoid such a crisis, but in no one's more than Japan. Moreover, if the Japanese government and the interlocking network of power elites on which it depends feel a radical shift of policy is needed to preserve their own essential interests, they are capable of moving with surprising speed.

The result of a bilateral US-Japan agreement would probably be less unpleasant for Europe than a full blown crisis, but still very difficult to live with. To the extent that Japanese exports were diverted from the United States, so would pressure on European manufacturers increase, both within the European market and in third countries.

On top of that the result of any determined bilateral effort to stabilize the yen-dollar relationship would be to drive up Deutsche marks, making it harder still for Germany to maintain its share of world trade and pushing it towards depression. As Germany is the pivot around which other European economies revolve, and a major market for their goods, they would suffer too.

Nor is that all. If the US and Japan should find they can reach useful agreements without others being involved, the habit of working together will grow.

At present attempts to manage the world economy still revolve round the so-called G-5 and G-7 that involve other countries as well as the Big Two — Britain, France and Germany — in the former with the addition of Canada and Italy in the latter. It is also becoming fashionable to talk of the emergence of a tri-polar system involving the US, Japan and the EEC as a unit, since as a unit the Community is of sufficient weight to hold its own with the other two. Thus the opportunity for Europe to participate is there if only it can be grasped.

However, in order to play an effective role in managing the world economy the Community must first acquire the same capacity to manage its domestic economy and to respond to external challenges as the United States and Japan. In essence this means being able to run a macro-economic policy on a European rather than a national basis. That requires European fiscal and monetary policies as well as a European trade policy. At present only the trade leg of the tripod is in place.

Britain, far from showing itself ready to respond to this challenge, cannot even bring itself to take the preliminary step of joining the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. For a country that at great cost — and rightly in my view — maintains nuclear weapons at least partly in order to maximize its influence on international strategic decisions, this is, to say the least, an odd position.

The author, a former vice-president of the European Commission, is chairman of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House).

moreover... Miles Kington

Get your zero option here

Can this really be the coldest day since records began? Since the day when Thomas Alva Edison came running out of his laboratory shouting: "Eureka! I have invented a small black disc which revolves at 78 rpm, and which tells you just how cold it really is!" The experiment, alas, was a failure, and Edison was later reduced to using the black disc for recording *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.

Yes, that's how cold it is, the coldest day on record, the coldest weather since time began, so cold that packs of St Bernard dogs will be out and about today, grinning the roads, sweeping the verges and bringing refreshment to you as you sit stranded in your car or train. When approached by St Bernard, do not panic or have a go: simply say to yourself: "I must be seeing things", and faint dead away. Remember, only make your journey if it is absolutely necessary, and already thousands of train and bus drivers have headed this call, staying at home in the warmth of their own duvets.

One person who won't be staying home today, the coldest day since they first managed to get mercury inside a thermometer, is Jack Slot, who drives a lorry loaded with nuclear weapons round Salisbury Plain. Come rain, come shine, come a strange hot wind blowing from Russia, you'll find Jack out there in his lorry, making sure the nuclear weapons get through. He has to be up at five or six in the morning, getting into his Nuclear Dairies white coat and his Nuclear Dairies peaked cap, before he is off delivering his crates of freshly brewed weapons to all his customers.

And we've just heard that at Thallom in Norfolk last night they recorded the lowest temperature of all time, a staggering -18.70 degrees Celsius, unless that's when the thermometer was made. Where do they find places with names like Thallom? Over to the London Name Centre.

"Hello, welcome to the coldest

day since dinosaurs walked the earth, with the news that there are no places with names like Thallom. These temperatures are all made up in London, and we then invent a story for these unlikely places. We also make up names for motorway service areas, army camps and government ministers. Remember John Selwyn Gummer? He was one of our best names.

Do you remember John Selwyn Gummer? If so, do you think he was (a) a character in a Jeffrey Archer novel; (b) a rock group; (c) a kind of glue used for sniffling; (d) a small village now submerged by Rutland Water?

Just write your answer on a postcard and send it to The Correct Answer is a Character in a Jeffrey Archer Novel Contest, allowing ten days for delivery. Meanwhile news has just come in that three inches of snow fell overnight, and our motoring unit has been jammed with calls asking why snow is still measured in inches when everything else has gone metric. If snow was metric too, wouldn't it be easier to clear away? Yes, that's true, but conversion is a very slow and expensive business, and it may be well into the 1990s before the work is finished.

And a news flash from Wiltshire: a lorry carrying nuclear weapons has overturned in a field, so will motorists who were thinking of using this field please use some other entirely different field. Finally a government health warning: in the next few days leaflets will be delivered to every marooned car in the country explaining the facts about AIDS; when you get yours, for heaven's sake don't touch it, as one simply doesn't know how these dreadful diseases get passed on. I mean one might get it simply from shaking hands, for heaven's sake.

And now the main points of the weather forecast again. It has been the coldest day since records began, again.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

A KINNOCK GOVERNMENT?

When politicians are away, the pollsters are encouraged to play. With little "real" politics around, hard-working commentators have no option but to contemplate the computerised views of the electorate. Holidaying ministers (unless they can escape Britain's media as well as its weather) have to join them.

Everyone struggles to understand how Labour can be massively ahead in one London marginal and disastrously behind in the rest — that problem being set merely by one Sunday's TV in conjunction with newspaper output from one polling organisation. All look forward, returning to Westminster, to the comforting certainties of red box and palace bar.

But not this year — which has been designated as a suitable opportunity for an election by almost everyone except the lady whose sole decision it is. The polls will be with us for some time. While they now show more cheer for Mrs Thatcher than for her opponents — yesterday's poll for TV-AM puts the Tories at 42 per cent for the first time since Mr Kinnock became Leader of the Opposition — they have perhaps the more important function of focusing attention on the very frailty of power. A cat may look at a king. Mr Kinnock in Downing Street? The horse-laugh of derision from Conservative Central office is not so hearty as before the holiday.

The Labour leader has many points against him. He still stands by a defence policy which is an anathema to the British people. He still has to live with far left councils whose antics are an affront to the tradition of local democracy. He also represents a socialist philosophy that is in retreat virtually throughout the world, and not even his greatest admirers consider that Mr Kinnock is the man to turn that particular tide.

So need the country trouble itself to prepare for a Kinnock administration? Should it face the fact that by the end of the year the Labour leader may be Prime Minister with an outright majority or in coalition with all or part of the Alliance? There can only be one answer to these questions: yes.

First, Mrs Thatcher has moved — not always very skillfully — onto sections of Opposition ground. By conceding yesterday afternoon the automatic cold weather payments that her ministers had been valiantly rejecting only hours before, the Prime Minister has shown flexibility

and compassion. But she is losing a little conviction too. In any head-to-head fight she has nothing much to fear. In a heart-to-heart contest, the handicapping is more even.

Secondly, since Mr Kinnock won the battle to succeed Mr Michael Foot, he has forged a more united party than any predecessor for two decades. Much emphasis has been placed on Labour's difficulties, with its current policies, in winning an election, much less on its preparedness, with its current party machine, to exploit the Tories' losing of it.

Last week, for example, Labour's senior spokesman on Health and Social Security opened his typewriter and (not for the first time) put his foot in it. In the run-up to the shadow cabinet conference at Bishop's Cleeve, party bosses were keen to display their would-be ministers as a serious alternative government, with each Shadow in his allotted place and an allotted place for each Shadow. Mr Michael Meacher chose this moment to regale his constituents with a ringing message about Britain's "humiliating" subordination to the US, saying that this (the rightful preserve of Mr Healey) was a much more important election issue than unemployment (the rightful preserve of Mr Prescott) or the health service (his own humble domain).

Yet, if Mr Kinnock was irked by this untimely intrusion, he could at the same time have congratulated himself. What was once an endemic disease of Labour politics is now only an occasional outbreak. In the past it would have been assumed that Mr Meacher's message (amongst all the others from Mr Benn, Mr Heffer *et al*) had been delivered out of mischief, even malice. Today, it can be counted as a tactical error.

Labour's Walworth Road headquarters, under the guiding spirit of General Secretary Larry Whitty and Communications Director, Peter Mandelson, has become a formidable fighting machine. A seasoned professional, Mr John Gau, is there to supervise their Party Political Broadcasts. In the NEC, Mr Kinnock regularly wins big majorities. He has one of his Party's best and brightest moderates, Mr Bryan Gould, as his campaign coordinator. The grandees of the soft-left, Mr David Blunkett and Mr Tom Sawyer, have remained loyal. The Bennites have remained routed.

Mr Kinnock has not, of

course, reaped the consistent applause from the public opinion polls to which his efforts have been aimed. He has not settled on the 40 per cent plateau from which he could confidently plan for victory. Moreover, as the current *New Statesman* points out, in none of the last seven general elections has Labour gained support in the campaigning month before polling day.

Nineteen eighty seven looks set to be the year of living dangerously. The Tories may find (to the surprise of some of them) that they have neither the divine right to rule nor the unerring tactical sense to hold power by human agency.

They may, for example, find that they have overplayed their "loony left" cards. Brent and Lambeth are a disturbing mirror (albeit a powerful one) of what a Labour government in Westminster would be like. Although the next parliamentary Labour party looks set to be further to the left of the present one, it would be a caricature to envisage benches of Bernie Grants or a massive membership boost for the Campaign Group. The voters may find too big a gap between Mr Tebbit's portrayal of their Labour candidate and the man or woman who is on the doorstep asking for their vote.

Labour, of course, still has the vastly bigger credibility problem. Few even of the most loyal Kinnock supporters can say with conviction that the money for Mr Hattersley's million new jobs will not instead inflate public sector wage packets.

Labour has the seeds of worthwhile policies on land use and the environment, on the relation between our too-productive farmers and the threatened countryside in which they work. But it still has not fully disavowed land nationalisation and opposition to Britain's membership of the EEC.

Labour has a powerful case on scientific research. But it has yet to persuade us that it is a party for genuine academic excellence and not a party which will distribute more taxpayers' money into the pockets of more scientific second-raters.

It is hard for any Opposition that has been for so long out of office to prove its own competence. But in 1983 Labour's very campaign proved its incompetence. If it can avoid repeating that proof, it has a chance of electoral reward. No one should forget that simple fact.

TEST FOR DIPLOMACY

A recent study, reported in the journal of the American Medical Association, indicated that the proportion of prostitutes suffering from "current sexually transmitted diseases" in Nairobi rose from 4 per cent in 1981 to 59 per cent last year. The study was one of a number conducted in recent years on the incidence of AIDS in Kenya — and which lie behind last month's decision by army doctors to place Mombasa and Malindi out of bounds to British troops.

In the light of what we know about AIDS in Kenya and the extent of public concern in Britain, this would seem to be a sensible precaution. Three British units exercise for six weeks at a time in Kenya every year, and given the value of their training, it would be a pity to break the routine.

Military units visiting any part of the world are briefed beforehand on indigenous risks. But every battalion contains a few who, having been trained to be brave on the battlefield, are inclined to be foolhardy off it. The ban on all visits to the above named centres for rest and recreation, was imposed in time for the

2nd battalion of the Parachute Regiment who are currently in Kenya, but too late for the 1st battalion of the Queen's Own Highlanders who have recently returned.

It is too early for doctors to tell whether any of the Highlanders have contracted AIDS while out there. But the Ministry has admitted to several cases within the armed forces as a whole and it would seem reasonable to make AIDS tests compulsory for all those returning from high-risk areas. Meanwhile, however, Mr John Johnson, the British High Commissioner in Nairobi, has summoned the local press to express his regret over any damage which might have been suffered by the Kenyan tourist industry and to admit, or rather assert, that he had opposed the army's decision. Kenya, he said, is one of the healthiest centres for tourists in the world.

Now, nobody wishes to harm the Kenyan tourist industry. Nor is it hard to understand why Mr Johnson, who is responsible for the maintenance of good relations between London and Nairobi, is concerned. The Kenyan

government is extremely sensitive on the issue.

But it is also to be hoped that Mr Johnson has not got his priorities wrong — or misled the Kenyan government. He is well advised to explain privately to his contacts in Nairobi, Britain's good intentions towards that country. But for him to express in public his doubts over the wisdom of such a precaution — that is to carry diplomacy altogether too far.

The army must be as much concerned about the purity of the local blood banks as about the purity of the local ladies. If there are grounds for suspecting that soldiers might be exposed to undue risks by visiting these places, then the Ministry of Defence must act as it has — and be prepared to go further if necessary.

If this harms the Kenyan tourist industry, then it is a pity. But damage limitation is in everyone's interests — and those of the tourist industry most of all. The alternative might be to stop British troops from going there altogether. It is to be hoped that Mr Johnson will relay that also to the government in Nairobi.

Aids and morals

From Dr G. del Lee
Sir, Clifford Longley's article, "Aids: Church's quest to find a convincing sex ethic" (January 12), really encouraged me. For the current adversarial nature of the moralist and utilitarian arguments advanced on how to prevent Aids is so deeply dismaying, particularly to many of the young I meet and admire. They seem so much more searching than many traditionalists in their responses to all the dilemmas of conscience we face, not just those relating sexuality to human affection.

I believe them to be no less caring of one another than the moralists in this largely secular nation of ours. Encouraged even by the tax laws to be "modern" in

their living, most manage to cherish the joys of their sexuality with a responsibility that shines.

To their concern, moralistic (Church) pronouncements — seeming to confine sexuality and the physiological act of sex as gifts only for sacramental procreation, or else sinful — appear close to a religiosity that demeans the full wonder of the human condition as they see it.

So, plainly, there is a failure of communication between such deeply concerned young people and the Church in particular. All of us are responsible, for we so often use language which confuses the "hows" and "whys" of life.

It will be a shame if the Church in Britain cannot convince people again that its attitude towards sexuality and our love for one

another is not a narrowly restrictive morality but something precious that deepens human experience.

Reasoned discussion for those of us who are not Christian is needed, using language respectfully for persuasion rather than censure. Responses might then lose their rancour, cease to ridicule and wish to join in constructive dialogue.

Aids seems aptly named. It could help us all to think things through together again about fundamental moral issues in general and our love for one another in particular. Yours faithfully, GRANT del LEE, 60 Church Street, Kidlington, Oxford. January 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Economic remedies for job losses

From Professor D. A. Bell
Sir, As we pass from Industry Year, 1986, to Industry Matters Year, 1987, it is well to be clear why industry matters and in particular to consider the position of British manufacturing industry in its two distinct roles, as provider of employment and as producer of wealth.

Employment in manufacturing industry in Britain has been falling gradually for many years, for example from 36.4 per cent of total employment in June, 1971, to 31.4 per cent in June, 1979; but it has recently fallen more rapidly and reached 25.8 per cent in June, 1985.

In numbers, the average loss of manufacturing employment between 1971 and 1979 was about 208,000 per year and if this had continued during the period 1979-1985 there would have been a loss of 1,248,000 jobs in manufacturing industry, compared with an actual loss of 1,644,000. But would it have been reasonable for the loss to continue?

Compared with our figure of 25.8 per cent in 1985, the proportion of Japanese employed in manufacturing industry has remained around 26 per cent for the 20 years up to 1984 while in USA the proportion had fallen from 31 per cent in 1963 to 18 per cent in 1983 and in West Germany from 30 per cent in 1973 to 27 per cent in 1982. In view of these international figures (for slightly varying dates), the figure of nearly 26 per cent in 1985 for British manufacturing industry does not seem unduly small. One must therefore look elsewhere for the cause of the greater severity of unemployment in Britain.

In the wealth-creating role, however, the picture is less favourable to Britain. UN statistics for 1982 (*Year Book of National Accounts*, volume 2) show the contributions of manufacturing industry to gross domestic product in 1972 and in 1982 as 28 per cent and 21 per cent for the UK, 35 per cent and 31 per cent for Japan and 36 per cent and 38 per cent for West Germany. Thus the UK shows by far the biggest proportional drop in the contribution of manufacturing industry to national wealth.

What we need in Britain is not to subsidise the return of the unemployed to the industries which they left — buying back obsolete jobs with taxpayers' money — but to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of

manufacturing industry, particularly in the consumer sector. Stemming the flood of imported consumer goods would allow a balance of trade to be maintained without undue reliance on oil and by relieving the pressure on exchange rates would allow a reduction in interest rates to the benefit of everyone.

An increase in general economic activity, led by manufacturing industry, is one of the means of reducing general unemployment so amount of Government investment of taxpayers' money in the infrastructure can be a substitute for this.

Yours faithfully, D. A. BELL, 87 East End, Wokingham, Berkshire, North Hants.

From Mr Tom Dalby
Sir, Mr Kinnock's strategy for cutting unemployment by one million in two years is excellent in principle, but would be counter-productive in practice if it is not also linked with specific ideas on the development of plans for the introduction of new technologies to replace the Victorian industries which are no longer competitive in world markets.

Also, the emphasis on job-creation instead of wealth-creation will only increase inflation and, ultimately, diminish Britain's trading capacity and weaken further the manufacturing base.

It is interesting that so little has been said by the Labour Party on the subject of innovation and new technology. It may be remembered by some readers of *The Times* that the Labour Party conference in 1982 approved a resolution to set up a Labour Party science and technology group and that party policy should include support for innovative technology.

Mr Douglas Hoyle, MP, replying for the NEC, said that a comprehensive report on the future of science and technology should be placed before the 1983 conference (*The Times*, October 2, 1982). I cannot recollect any further reference being made to this particular resolution in 1983 or at any time since.

It would seem, therefore, that innovation and the realities of competition in world markets are still topics outside the areas of Labour Party policy planning. Yours faithfully, TOM DALBY, 4 Westbourne Park, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Schools manifesto

From the Principal of Halesowen College.

Sir, In your leader (January 3) supporting the pamphlet, *Whose Schools?*, you assert that responsibility for what is taught must be "taken from political agencies and given back to heads and teachers", subject to a "national core curriculum". This latter would be determined by Parliament, undoubtedly a political agency, so you appear to contradict yourself.

What you seem to want is the removal of local elected councils of any control over how schools are run. Instead, control would be exercised by parents and consumers, with the schools "responsible to parents".

You imply, therefore, that local councils are not responsive; and few would dissent from the assertion that some local councils have pursued lunatic policies with an arrogant disregard of the wishes of those they purport to represent.

Taipei pilgrimage

From the Reverend Canon Andrew Harvey.

Sir, Many of your readers will have been grateful for the perceptive account of the Taipei pilgrimage given in your leading article (January 2). This event was remarkable, not only for the enthusiasm and seriousness of the participants, many of whom had travelled great distances to attend, but also for the exemplary consideration and courtesy they showed towards those who were in the way of their needs in London.

There is, however, one point on which you may unwittingly have given a misleading impression. You said that those who asked how to join the "Taipei mass movement" would get no answer "except an invitation to be one of the monks of Taipei itself". This might be taken to suggest that one of the purposes of these great Taipei pilgrimages is to gain recruits for the community. This is far from being the case. The community already has at least 80 members and is in no hurry to grow larger.

On the other hand, an answer is given, but of a different kind. Those who ask to "join" are strongly encouraged to return to the parish from which they come and to share there something of the vision and encouragement they have received from Taipei. This year's European meeting will have contributed as much to the life and vigour of the many parishes in the London area where the pilgrims stayed as to the commitment to peace, reconciliation and trust of some 20,000 young people who came to London from many countries in both East and Western Europe.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY HARVEY, 3 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey, SW1. January 4.

Electricity hazard

From Mr J. D. Fawson.

Sir, Whilst we have the attention of electrical plug manufacturers in your columns (Letters, December 15, 22, 29, January 2), could we ask them why most, if not all, their plugs are sold with 13 amp fuses? In the course of furnishing a small house and methodically fitting the recommended fuses at considerable extra cost, I have collected 47 spare 13 amp fuses!

This really does seem wasteful. More important perhaps, would anyone — e.g., the plug manufacturers — care to buy back (say) 46 13 amp fuses?

Yours etc, J. D. FAWSON, Rokesley, Dallington, Heathfield, East Sussex.

Greenham events

From Monsignor Bruce Kent.

Sir, Mr Heseltine's account of the 1983 Newbury demonstration by the Greenham women (feature, December 22) is at variance with the reports of his own testimony at the time and with that of numerous eye witnesses, including local journalists and the police. But

whatever did or did not happen on that night is no reason for Mr Heseltine, four years later, to refuse reasonable democratic discussions with anyone holding views other than his on defence matters.

Yours faithfully, BRUCE KENT (Vice-Chairman, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament), 22-24 Underwood Street, NI.

Firm in the saddle

From Mr Peter Hogan.

Sir, I would like to say that side-saddle riding can improve anyone's seat, irrespective of gender. My astride position was greatly balanced a number of years ago by some side-saddle lessons I received. I am not the bravest or most skilful of astride jumpers, but I have found side-saddle jumping to be most enjoyable.

It is a great pity that Western culture has characterised side-saddle equitation as the prerogative of the distaff side.

Yours faithfully, PETER HOGAN, 36 New Bridge Court, Chiswick, W4. January 8.

Cleaning up the profitable way

From Ms Miranda Vinograd.

Sir, Applauding Mr Clinton Davis's initiative to improve waste disposal and to clean up beaches and litter in the EEC (report, December 31; Letter from Brussels, January 3), may I suggest that Mr Davis investigate returnable-container legislation as a means of achieving several of these goals at once? Such legislation has been in effect in many American states, including Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, for several years; the benefits are demonstrable.

Under these laws all plastic, glass and metal soft drink and beer containers must be redeemable for 5c (say, 3p) each at any retailer selling that particular brand. These materials are removed and recycled by the manufacturer, although the containers themselves cannot be re-used.

There was considerable resistance to this legislation by retailers and manufacturers who bear the brunt of the trouble and expense of the process, but local authorities responsible for trash removal are delighted by the results. This approach has proved far more effective than bottle banks. The reduction in costs for removing roadside and beach litter has been dramatic and the volume of domestic rubbish was also reduced. Jobs are also created in handling and recycling.

I have observed that only two years after the laws came into force in Maine the hazards of broken glass on our island beach were so reduced that we could at last go barefoot. Another unexpected benefit has been the opportunity for enterprising youngsters, disabled, indigent, and charitably-minded persons to make money by retrieving discarded containers from waste-baskets and roadsides.

It is not uncommon to see several occupants of wheelchairs fitted with collecting panniers patrolling tourist areas to gather up cans and bottles. Judging by the number of containers collected and the competition for "good locations", this must represent a tidy source of income.

May I suggest a study of the American experience, with adoption of returnable beverage containers (including wine and spirits) throughout the EEC, would encourage everyone to profitably participate in the Year of the Environment.

Very truly yours, MIRANDA VINOGRAD, 15 Searle Avenue, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146, United States. January 5.

From Mr Dean Robinson
Sir, Why knock Richard Branson (report, January 5)? The campaign to clean up London's streets by young and old alike has been labelled as a gimmick. Well, as at the Trafalgar Square Project do not see it as a gimmick; it's a job that we are grateful for. Mr Roland Boyers, the environmental spokesman, thinks that Rome was built in a day; well, it was not, Mr Boyers.

It seems that the trade unionists don't understand what we are doing so we shall enlighten them. We at the Trafalgar Square Project are employed to help tourists who are lost or may need information on places of interest in and around London, we also help to keep Trafalgar Square clean. So if the trade unionists think that we are trying to put other people out of a job, we are not — we are just trying to help.

Why is it that whenever something is started in this country to improve the environment, if it does not work straight away it's a gimmick or politics comes into it? We should be glad that people like Richard Branson are putting in their valuable time and energy to improve the country's environment and create new jobs.

Yours faithfully, D. ROBINSON (member, The Trafalgar Square Project, Community Service Volunteers), 8 Hop Gardens, 52 St Martin's Lane, WC2. January 8.

London Zoo funding

From the Treasurer of The Zoological Society of London.

Sir, In an article which you published on January 9 Mr George Hill drew attention to the cost of sustaining the Royal Family. He put this "in a normal year" at £30million — "not quite four times the annual running cost of the Zoological Society of London." He went on to compare it with £41million for military bands; a similar sum for the Arts Council; £72.5million for storing European grain surplus and £100million for Nimrod.

I have two comments: first, the inclusion of the London Zoo in the list clearly suggests that the society, like the others mentioned, depends upon public funds to the amount indicated. That is not so; only about one third of the £7million or so involved would "in a normal year" come from public funds — a great deal less, incidentally, than similar institutions receive in other comparable countries.

Secondly, in asking the public to judge between the running cost of the Royal Family and that of the zoo, he is making a comparison which is neither relevant nor useful.

Yours faithfully, PEYTON OF YEOVIL, Treasurer, The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, NW1. January 12.



ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 14 1858

The first Chinese war with Britain ended with the Treaty of Nanking of August 29, 1842, which ceded Hong Kong to Britain. A second conflict occurred from 1856-60. Our Correspondent was George Wingrove Cooke. Canton was captured on January 5, 1858.

CHINA.

(From Our Special Correspondent)

HONGKONG, Nov. 28, 1857.

That by force or by capitulation we shall have possession of Canton before this year is closed I have no moral doubt. It will be time then to speculate upon ulterior proceedings... The stakes are too valuable to be left unwatched. If it does so happen that your house is on fire, that is no reason why you should put yourself in such a fluster while you are putting it out that you let Mr. Koff run away with your strong box and Mr. Slick elope with your ledger. I return, therefore, and shall return, *ictibus crebris*, to my unweelcome task of hammering for attention to English interests in China.

When we have got this city of Canton, about the neck of which we are now tightening the lasso, we must use it for the purpose of preventing future wars and establishing a feeling of mutual regard between the people of the country and ourselves. There is only one way in which this can ever be effected. We must break down the door of partition. If the big brand bureaucracy of China will remain in the way, we must walk over it. But we must have free and unrestricted intercourse. I do not propose this as an easy point to gain. It will require great tact and decision in our Plenipotentiary to obtain the privilege... Lord Elgin has the perspicacity to see the danger to follow this bold safe course, you people at home, and especially you men of commerce at home, must support him, or he will fail. If he has not you must push him, force him, or supersede him, for he will deserve to fail, and must fail. This is the key of the whole position. Gain it, and in the words of a Chinese merchant with whom I often discussed this question, "All men will be glad." He meant, and I mean, all men except the corrupt officials...

Whenever we strive to obtain sufficient specific facts whereby to map a line of action we are brought up by the humiliating conviction that our ignorance of China is a darkness that may be felt. Even of that great conglomerate of cities on the Yangtze we know little more than that it is the commercial emporium of central China, and that its population is variously estimated at from five to eight millions of souls. We know that it exists, and that is nearly all we know. No one has been there except native Chinamen and Jesuit missionaries. There are some scattered notions of it in the *Annales de la Propagation de la Foi* (tom. xviii.), and Huo has made mention of it in his journey from Tartary to Canton. The elder missionary was roused to enthusiasm by the immensity of the numbers of prospective converts. For five leagues he saw nothing but the shanties and the closely packed habitations of men. For a still longer space the river, more than a league in breadth, was crowded with beautiful and fantastic vessels passing and repassing by day and by night. Nearer to shore, where these vessels became fixed habitations, he entered, at night, a water way defined on each side by floating shops and for four hours he journeyed through a labyrinth of lit streets, all resting on the surface of the river. In the morning he reached the shore, but only to find that Woohang differs from other Chinese cities only in its marvellous magnitude. From a distance he saw pagodas and *zennanas* and highly cultivated environs; when he approached he saw the usual details of an aggregate of Chinese habitations, banks worn away by inundations, workshops half undrained by the stream, houses built upon piles; no order, no breadth of thoroughfares, but narrow alleys, among which men and cattle and hogs pressed in search of jostling crowds... It seemed a whole creation of mankind, all buying and selling and bartering and chaffering, a Babel of trade, a struggling world of dealers and brokers.

This is the one great type of a thousand cities which differ only in dimensions. How can we tell from which it may be safe to be excluded, or how far a single exception may neutralise the benefit of all we gain and enable the cunning savages to hold us in check and keep us in the wrong?...

Yours faithfully, BARRIE L. IRVING, Director, The Police Foundation, 314/316 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1. January 7.

From the Director of The Police Foundation
Sir, I have recently had cause to fill in a shotgun licence application for the first time. It requires me to report on my own mental health, which I naturally believe to be near perfect. Of course, one of the marks of mental illness, including alcoholism, is the difficulty the sufferer has in recognising his affliction.

While it would be naive to think that sporting interests will allow major changes in the licensing regulations in the short term, even if criminal use of shotguns continues to rise, I see no great problem in addressing this one important question on the application form to someone who is at least qualified in law to answer it.

Yours faithfully, BARRIE L. IRVING, Director, The Police Foundation, 314/316 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1. January 7.

Shot in the dark
From the Director of The Police Foundation

Sir, I have recently had cause to fill in a shotgun licence application for the first time. It requires me to report on my own mental health, which I naturally believe to be near perfect. Of course, one of the marks of mental illness, including alcoholism, is the difficulty the sufferer has in recognising his affliction.

While it would be naive to think that sporting interests will allow major changes in the licensing regulations in the short term, even if criminal use of shotguns continues to rise, I see no great problem in addressing this one important question on the application form to someone who is at least qualified in law to answer it.

Yours faithfully, BARRIE L. IRVING, Director, The Police Foundation, 314/316 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1. January 7.

WALL STREET

Shares mixed but Dow edges ahead

New York (Agencies) — Share prices remained in a mixed pattern in early trading yesterday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average higher, but the broader indicators showing a decline.

Traders reported that secondary issues, which have set the pace in the New Year rally, experienced profit-taking with those stocks which have risen the most sharply. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which was down by as much as 8 points at the opening bell, was up by 2.95 points to 2,012.37.

Rising shares outnumbered falling ones by seven to six on a volume of 64 million shares.

IBM led the list of active stocks with a decline of two to 118. Owens-Illinois jumped by 3/4 to 54 1/2, after Kohlberg Kravis and Co. offered to buy the company for \$55.

On Monday, shares extended the New Year rally into its seventh consecutive session. But weakness in IBM and Owens-Illinois — two components of the Dow average — tempered the enthusiasm.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by 3.51 points, to close at 2,009.42 — another record close.

	Jan 12	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13
AMR	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
ASA	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2
Asda Ltd	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2
Alfred Signal	44 1/2	44 1/2	44 1/2	44 1/2	44 1/2	44 1/2
Alis Chems	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2
Amgen Inc	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Amstar	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Hs	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Brs	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Can	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Dm	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Ew	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Ex	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Hm	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Amstar Mm	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
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Amstar Wm	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
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Amstar Ys	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
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STOCK MARKET

Dealers fear equities could slump today on profit-taking

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

Share prices, currently trading at their highest levels ever, could be in for a shakeout when trading resumes this morning.

Last night, a number of leading market-makers were taking an increasingly bearish view of the equity market after one of its best performances in living memory.

Following 15 consecutive days of gains that have seen the FT-SE 100 index climb by nearly 500 points — adding billions of pounds to share values — some of them have decided that enough is enough and may now try to turn the market on its head.

One leading market-maker commented last night: "I wouldn't mind going short at this stage. The market is starting to look a little tired. It looks overdue for a correction."

These words of caution were being echoed by other dealers in the City last night and may be the signal for the big fund managers to "cash in" on some of the enormous profits which they are sitting on when trading resumes today.

There were early signs yesterday that the market was running out of steam, with the FT-SE 100 closing 7.7 points up at 1,763.3, having been

nearly 16 points up earlier in the session.

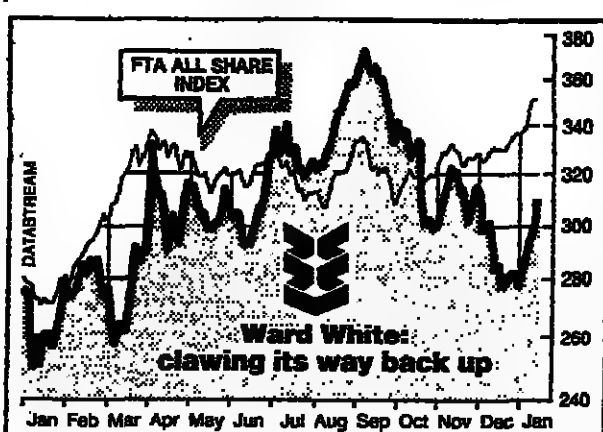
The narrower FT index of top 30 shares also closed below its best level, having, at one stage, broken through the psychologically important 1,400 level for the first time since the summer. It later closed with a gain of 4.5 at 1,393.9, after touching 1,403.2 at 2 pm.

Once again the equity market had taken its cue from Wall Street, which has also been enjoying a record-breaking run at the start of its new year. The Dow Jones industrial average, which

● The David Wickins M&S touch is about about to work again. First Security, where he owns a 45 per cent stake, jumped 10p to 215p yesterday ahead of half-year figures. The existing news is that the world's biggest car manufacturer has bought a 10 per cent stake in the company.

broke through the 2,000 mark last week, again opened higher in early trading last night.

But the Arctic conditions sweeping the country took their toll of turnover, with most dealers and fund managers making an early start for home. But most marketmen are now convinced that the



equity market has run too far, too fast and that a period of correction is now required.

Only the emergence of more good news, such as a decision not to refer BTR's £1.2 billion bid for Pilkington Bros to the Monopolies Commission, is likely to sustain the market.

The cracks were also starting to appear in the Government securities market yesterday as prices at the longer end tumbled by up to 1/4. After pinning its New Year hopes on an early cut in base rates, dealers are now worried by the growing strength of the German mark against the pound.

But the big freeze gave another boost to oil stocks, with the partly-paid British Gas shares closing 3p better at 70p, a fresh high. More than

with more than 9 million shares changing hands in the market. Its shares continued their sharp rise of recent weeks, but then eased back to end the day unchanged at 205p. Speculation about a stakeholder continues — and the name of General Cinema, a US company capitalised at about £1.2 billion, is being mentioned. Dealers believe that General Cinema, which controls the largest cinema chain in the US and is also the largest bottler of Pepsi-Cola, may have amassed a stake of up to 5 per cent.

Ward White, the acquisitive Payless-DIY-to-Halfords group, eased 2p to 308p.

● Wood Mackenzie, the broker, has moved Dalgety, the Spillers food group, on to its "buy" list following a visit to the company yesterday afternoon. Its shares firm by 4p to 304p. Dalgety is beginning a programme of company visits for fund managers.

despite a bullish presentation to Scrimgeour, the broker, on Monday, by Mr Philip Birch, the company's chairman. Its shares have risen by more than 20p during the past week.

Mr Birch, who had just returned from a trip to the US to talk to managers at Whitlock, the US car-parts retailer it acquired recently along with LCP, will be making similar presentations to Smith Newcourt today and Wood Mackenzie next Monday.

Scrimgeour is now rating the stock as a "buy". The firm's leading retail analyst, Mr Nick Bubb, says: "The presentation from Mr Birch went very well. He is hopeful of getting at least £75 million from the sale of LCP's British businesses — in industrial property and fuel distribution — and has a queue of buyers waiting. He also had some very good news about trading at Payless. It looks as if that acquisition was a much better deal than we thought at the time."

He says Ward White shares are selling on a prospective p/e, to early 1988, of 11.5, against a sector average of 13.5. "Yet they deserve to be on an above-average rating," he says.

Ward White is also expected to be admitted to an American Depository Receipt listing in April.

Elsewhere among retailers, Dixons gave up 14p to 336p ahead of its results later today.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

When the City advisers ran out of control

The origin of the Department of Trade inquiry into Guinness remains, for the time being, shrouded in mystery; but I am convinced that it does not lie in the tales Ivan Boesky told the American Securities and Exchange Commission. The pressures on the Department to move against Guinness were both crude (political) and sophisticated (City): only after Michael Howard, who found himself in Paul Channon's shoes, had decided to send in inspectors was the SEC approached for any helpful information it was prepared to give.

In the light of revelations and confessions already made — before, that is, the inspectors have finished their fact-finding let alone written their report — it is clear that Guinness will be judged to have erred. How far the company has erred and whether in so doing it has broken the law is the inspectors' job to discover.

Meanwhile, contrary to what is often fondly referred to as the British sense of fair play, Guinness has been heavily punished before it has even been tried, let alone found guilty. The share price has been cut to ribbons, the board has been divided, the career of Ernest Saunders may have been destroyed, and the future of a major British company operating in an important international business has been put in doubt if not yet in jeopardy.

Guinness, however, is but one company and although it is ostensibly the target of the DTI inquiry, the real investigation is into the practices of the City of London, in particular the techniques employed by the corporate finance departments of merchant banks and stockbroking firms in advising and conducting takeover bids on behalf of client companies.

If the inspectors do their job properly they will hold up these techniques to public scrutiny and if the law takes its expected course, it will be for the courts to decide whether all or some of them are illegal. If they are illegal, it would be incumbent on the Government to look at other bids where the same techniques would have been used. In the end no doubt some formal rules would have to be adopted to keep the zeal of merchant bankers within defined limits.

The energy and inventiveness that have gone into successfully prosecuting takeover bids have been hugely rewarded. Corporate finance departments, which have grown in size and in importance, have become the high-profile, high-growth parts of merchant banking.

At the same time, it has become less clear where responsibilities lie, both between the bid whizz-kids and the senior partners, who have become dazzled by their success and the fees they have brought in, and between the advisers and the company they are advising.

It is, or it ought to be, quite clear that bankers, brokers and businessmen are

responsible for their own actions and for the actions of those beneath them.

Morgan Grenfell, largely under the impulse of circumstances it would rather never have happened, has the opportunity of being the first bank to define, for its own staff what is and what is not acceptable in takeover battles. It has launched an internal review of the entire group, taking the banking, securities and asset management operations.

The aim in the first instance must be to pin down exactly what went wrong in the Distillers takeover. Or, as a Morgan employee put it: "If people did not know what was going on, why did they not?" In the process, however, it will almost inevitably have to define clearly what the takeover wizards would have been allowed to do had their seniors known everything.

Morgan's review was urgently needed for other reasons, too. Over the last two years the group's size, both in terms of staff and amount of business, has doubled. The huge increase in staff numbers has almost certainly meant a weakening of strict reporting procedures. The mushrooming of corporate finance business, which reached 111 deals worth £15 billion last year, has also led — as the bank itself admits — to a loosening of senior director control of what is going on. A divisional director no longer has an involvement in every deal as he did in the old days.

The trouble is that the explosion in corporate finance business came at just the time when senior management's attention was being absorbed by preparations for Big Bang. At the same time, there is a natural tendency in any management to humour the profit-makers in the organization and not ask the kind of questions that might cut off the flow of golden eggs.

All quiet at the DTI

In contrast to the Guinness affair, the DTI inquiry into alleged leaks of inside information by a civil servant has gone deathly quiet. It was launched on December 18 to look at possible unauthorized disclosure of important company takeover news by employees at the DTI, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the Office of Fair Trading.

The story seemed to be settled before Christmas. Brokers have been visited. And the inquiry was expected to yield at least the first stages of legal proceedings by the time Parliament reconvened two days ago. What has happened to the mystery woman and her City relative?

A DTI spokesman indicated yesterday that developments had been upstaged by the widening scope of the Guinness affair. Since there are completely different inspectors on the case, that hardly seems a good reason for delay.

ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

1986 High		Company	Price			Div			Yld			1986 Low		Price			Div			Yld		
High	Low		Price	Off	Chge	Price	Off	Chge	Price	Off	Chge	Price	Off	Chge	Price	Off	Chge	Price	Off	Chge		
355	299	Alfred-Lyons	342	347	+1	14.5	4.8	15.7	5,400	488	513	Leadbroke	295	380	-10	16.8	4.3	15.5	1,500	200	145	
188	145	ASDA-MFI	180	184	-2	4.6	2.8	17.7	1,400	350	302	Land Securities	340	343	-3	14.5	4.2	22.8	781	170	145	
478	414	ASDA	473	478	-10	16.3	5.1	17.3	407	286	218	Legal & Gen	250	255	-2	12.8	4.7	33.5	1,700	100	145	
300	284	BTR	280	286	-8	8.8	3.5	20.4	5,200	684	382	Leeds & Holbeck	170	175	-5	16.0	4.5	16.0	1,700	100	145	
514	444	BAT	507	512	-6	18.4	3.9	13.5	11,000	391	138	Lombard	248	250	-2	17.1	5.8	13.3	1,700	100	145	
525	485	Baxendale	522	530	-10	25.1	5.5	7.2	1,800	231	189	Mackay & Spencer	183	196	-1	5.8	5.8	23.3	8,000	100	145	
795	733	Bell	790	778	-11	24.3	5.2	18.7	1,100	608	507	Melland	575	598	-2	57.8	5.8	21.8	747	100	145	
470	411	Boccon	465	467	-5	17.1	3.7	18.5	2,500	885	447	Melland	575	598	-2	57.8	5.8	21.8	747	100	145	
737	681	Blue Circle	713	720	-8	20.0	4.2	10.2	1,500	576	481	P & O Direct	248	250	-2	26.4	4.8	15.8	337	100	145	
404	355	BOC	399	391	-4	15.4	3.9	12.8	679	618	443	Pearson	600	605	-7	18.4	2.8	20.1	1,100	100	145	
105	918	Brown	105	106	-1	10.8	4.3	16.1	3,100	891	386	Pennington Bros	628	633	+5	21.4	3.4	18.7	1,100	100	145	
551	488	By Aerospace	547	552	-7	18.4	4.8	11.8	1,800	346	182	Peat Marwick	170	175	-5	17.2	4.5	16.0	1,700	100	145	
70	61	Br Gas	66	71	-5	9.3	18.8	-	117M	889	749	Prudential	850	857	-7	36.0	4.5	35.0	990	100	145	
794	686	Dr Petroleum	773	778	-18	48.2	6.2	8.5	7,500	324	148	Race Elect	182	188	-2	4.3	2.8	15.5	4,600	100	145	
323	285	Dr Telecom	314	318	-11	11.2	5.2	12.8	7,100	688	487	Rank Org	596	582	-8	22.5	4.0	18.7	1,700	100	145	
109	135	Edell	108	136	-9	10.8	4.9	5.1	10,000	824	704	Raymond J. Coleman	354	357	-3	15.8	4.8	15.8	1,700	100	145	
394	350	Barton	388	392	-8	8.1	5.8	17.7	3,500	384	379	Reuters	585	590	+5	5.4	0.8	44.5	4,000	100	145	
389	377	Cable & Wireless	383	379	-3	7.2	2.0	20.1	4,400	791	522	RTZ	748	755	-7	31.4	4.2	10.0	1,800	100	145	
210	172	Cadbury Schweppes	208	208	-2	6.7	4.3	29.8	4,000	540	385	Roynolds	627	632	-5	18.0	4.2	11.9	1,100	100	145	
494	444	Carlsberg	488	492	-6	17.8	3.4	15.8	200	447	708	Royal Ind	458	461	-3	18.6	4.8	70.0	685	100	145	
355	327	Carson	350	355	-5	17.4	6.2	-	5,400	440	708	Sainsbury (S)	458	464	-6	18.6	4.8	70.0	685	100	145	
710	583	Carson	705	712	-6	36.0	4.9	20.5	1,200	148	131	Scayl	133	124	-9	5.0	4.0	16.0	3,300	100	145	
382	325	Centrica	375	328	-7	10.2	2.9	12.8	5,400	385	300	Seabrook Spg	380	389	-9	17.1	5.3	15.4	308	100	145	
291	261	Dea Corp	288	261	-2	10.0	4.9	18.4	4,700	104	732	Shell	199	205	+6	11.0	4.5	15.0	3,300	100	145	
380	378	Dixons	374	378	-4	4.3	1.3	28.9	9,000	282	112	Shib & Nephew	132	135	-3	5.5	5.8	22.9	1,000	100	145	
680	498	Peacocks	598	597	-2	8.4	1.4	28.5	1,000	194	123	STC	158	158	-1	2.1	1.1	18.0	1,800	100	145	
885	788	Peacocks	843	850	-5	84.3	4.0	21.5	278	884	547	Stan Court	768	789	-21	46.8	4.8	8.7	214	100	145	
280	260	Peacocks	258	260	-2	4.8	3.8	17.8	1,000	385	250	Stan Court	768	789	-21	46.8	4.8	8.7	214	100	145	
11	887	Peacocks	11	114	-20.0	1.2	28.5	1,000	772	610	39	Sturtevant	680	687	-7	27.5	4.0	61.5	1,500	100	145	
481	385	Grand Mail	450	485	-2	14.8	3.2	18.1	1,800	103	72	TBS SP	78	78	+1	6.1	8.0	-	4300	100	145	
625	527	Grand Mail	610	527	-10	14.8	3.2	18.1	1,800	103	72	TBS SP	78	78	+1	6.1	8.0	-	4300	100	145	
625	527	Grand Mail	610	527	-10	14.8	3.2	18.1	1,800	103	72	TBS SP	78	78	+1	6.1	8.0	-	4300	100	145	
355	325	GKN	350	325	-3	17.8	6.1	8.3	788	389	138	Tenax	485	493	+8	10.8	5.1	24.4	1,500	100	145	
325	274	Guinness	328	288	-3	11.8	3.8	11.2	9,800	188	185	Thames Valley	219	221	-2	10.8	4.5	11.1	1,500	100	145	
215	185	Hamm	208	205	-3	6.1	5.0	12.8	3,300	12	18	Thomson	219	221	-2	10.8	4.5	11.1	1,500	100	145	
605	608	Hamm	600	608	-8	21.4	4.8	11.3	1,400	288	118	Thomson	219	221	-2	10.8	4.5	11.1	1,500	100	145	
15	882	Imp Chem Ind	15	114	-4	48.8	4.1	18.2	2,800	279	174	Thomson	219	221	-2	10.8	4.5	11.1	1,500	100	145	
885	880	Jaguar	882	885	-4	12.7	2.8	12.8	1,800	925	385	Woodhouse	680	690	-10	28.8	3.8	15.7	1,800	100	145	

TEMPUS

Television South nudges hard to enter the Big Five circle

Every year of growth at Television South makes more irresistible its case to be included in the magic circle of the so-called Big Five network companies.

It is now bigger than Yorkshire Television in terms of its share of advertising revenue and is fast catching up with London Weekend Television and Granada. Thames Television and Central Television make up the remainder of the group.

The spectacular growth of TVS, from a loss of £1.1 million in its first 17 months of operation to a profit of £14.4 million pre-tax last year is a direct reflection of the growing wealth of its franchise area in the South-east of England stretching from Margate to beyond Poole.

The fact that TVS is still classified as a regional company is historical, but as companies grow and change so should the structure of the industry, argues the company.

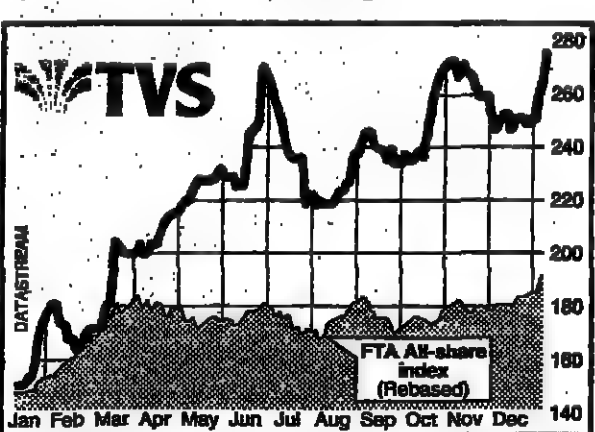
Parliament is likely to grant a three-year extension on existing franchises from 1989 while the Government considers how it will change the franchise system. TVS would like to be awarded network status for the extension period.

Network status means higher costs but the advantages are considerable.

There is, of course, always the ever-present threat that a television company might lose its licence. To reduce its reliance on the southern region of England, TVS is extending its interests into the United States and Europe. In addition to the Gilson Corporation with its programme distribution rights outside the US, it also bought Midem in July. Midem promotes trade fairs for the video industry from its Paris base.

Further acquisitions are contemplated in Europe and America.

Revenue in 1987 is not expected to grow as fast as in 1986. Nevertheless, analysts are looking for £17.5 million this year putting the



shares on a prospective multiple of 16.

Any setback to the price should be regarded as a buying opportunity.

Hunterprint

How long before the acquisition of Robert Maxwell starts taking notice of Hunterprint, the Corby-based colour printing company whose City share price has risen considerably since it was promoted from the USM to the main market nearly a year ago?

Yesterday, Hunterprint announced record pre-tax profits of £3.2 million for last year, a rise of 34 per cent, on turnover up by 20 per cent to £57 million. Earnings per share are up from 25.52p to 29.14p.

The aggressive drive out of its base in magazine colour printing and into specialist operations such as form-printing, mail order catalogues, and work for the financial services sector, has swept the shares up from 187p to 358p over the past year.

The only complaint from brokers is that Michael Hunter, the chairman, and his main investor, Gresham Trust, own more than half the company, leaving too thin a market.

Some moves to reduce Gresham's stake over the coming months could be likely if the company wishes to continue improving its profile in the City. While 90 per cent of

related activities has been in Aberdeen. Depressed demand and falling prices meant that the contribution from this region fell from 20 per cent to 15 per cent. However, the group is confident that this former boom town will again have its day and is maintaining its position there.

On the brighter side, the central belt from Glasgow to Edinburgh made up for the shortfall in Aberdeen with unit sales up by about a third to well over 300. However, planning delays on two sites have made themselves felt.

This year has not started well, with unit sales below budget. The cold spell will only make matters worse.

The group maintains its ambitions to expand outside Scotland and it was disappointed not to buy one of the Christian Salvesen divisions last year. But, with a low share rating and gearing at 60 per cent, it is hard for London & Clydeside to achieve its immediate corporate ambitions. Meanwhile, moves at home into estate agency and smaller site and infill housing should buoy up margins.

Over the years London & Clydeside has involved itself in commercial property development. It has retained several interests which generated £150,000 of income last year. In the current year two retail projects may come through which could, if traded, make a useful contribution to profits.

The group has demonstrated potential, but it still has not managed to produce results which have not been marred by some misfortune or other. A considerably higher tax charge was, for example, an additional dampener on the 1985-86 earnings.

This year, with the help of property deals, London & Clydeside should make comfortably in excess of £2 million. With earnings a share of more than 14p, the shares are still cheap.



Is your credit getting out of hand?

Look at your credit card statements and other loan agreements. Wouldn't it be nice to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start? A Lloyds Bowmaker 'Fresh Start' personal loan can do just that.

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Amount of Loan	EXAMPLES OF REPAYMENTS AT 18.86 APR VARIABLE			
	36 MONTHS	60 MONTHS	90 MONTHS	120 MONTHS
1000	35.85	25.00	19.86	17.96
2000	71.70	50.00	39.72	35.92
3000	107.55	75.00	59.58	53.88
4000	143.40	100.00	79.44	71.84
5000	179.25	125.00	99.30	89.80
7500	268.88	187.50	148.95	134.76

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LOAN REQUIRED £.....

Period of repayment..... (in months)

Purpose of Loan.....

YOUR WORK

Employers Name and Address.....

Occupation.....

Number of years service.....

Spouse's Work

Employers Name and Address.....

Occupation.....

Number of years service.....

Annual Income £.....

Spouse's Income £..... (Proof of income must be enclosed)

Self..... Spouse.....

PRIORITY APPLICATION

(Please complete and return all sections of this form. BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE.)

YOUR PROPERTY

Name and Address of Building.....

Society.....

Roll No.....

Monthly repayment £.....

Amount of Mortgage outstanding £.....

Name and Address of Second Mortgage.....

Date property purchased.....

Price paid for property £.....

Estimated value of property £.....

I/We do/do not occupy premises.....

YOURSELF

Date of Birth.....

Signed.....

Signed (Spouse).....

Date.....

Tel. No. Home.....

Surname.....

Forename(s).....

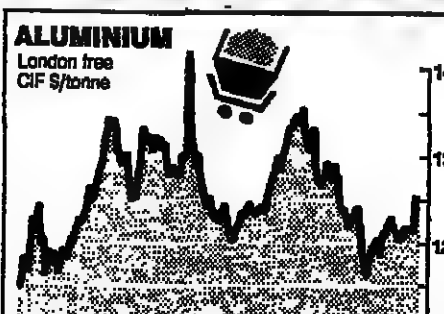
Surname (Spouse).....

Forename(s).....

100

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

J F M A M J J A S O N D

[illegible]

Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Initial
1	Laporte	Chemicals/Plas	
2	Wolfsheide Risk	Chemicals/Plas	
3	Shope & Pines	Building Roads	
4	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building Roads	
5	Brown & Trew	Building Roads	
6	Breton & Chad	Building Roads	
7	Int Signal & Comm	Electronics	
8	Coats Virella	Drapery Stores	
9	Reckitt & Colman	Industrial L-R	
10	Avon	Industrial L-R	
11	Powell Duffryn	Industrial L-R	
12	APV	Industrial A-D	
13	Unigate	Food	
14	Shish	Industrial S-Z	
15	Began	Food	
16	Bas	Food	
17	DSZ	Industrial A-D	
18	Pratt	Oil	
19	Equinox Ind	Paper, Print, Adv	
20	Shenstone	Industrial S-Z	
21	Karlens (A)	Industrial S-Z	
22	Federated Veg	Building Roads	
23	McCarthy & S	Building Roads	
24	Culmen	Food	
25	Whitworth Elm	Electronics	
26	Hardanger	Property	
27	AB Elec	Electronics	
28	Micro Focus	Electronics	
29	Rayson Shim	Industrial L-R	
30	Bibby (J)	Industrial A-D	
31	Victors	Industrial S-Z	
32	Marshall (Londy)	Industrial L-R	
33	Ferran	Electronics	
34	McKee	Industrial L-R	
35	Bentley (CV)	Industrial A-D	
36	Willis James	Industrial S-Z	
37	Bransy	Industrial A-D	
38	GEI Int	Industrial S-Z	
39	Ten Hilde	Industrial S-Z	
40	Benson Choke	Industrial A-D	
41	MS Int	Industrial L-R	
42	Fisons	Industrial E-K	
43	Deco	Industrial E-K	
44	BCC	Electronics	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Open Close

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	High	Low	Open	Close
...

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Open	Close
...

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Open	Close
...

NOEL LINKED

Company	High	Low	Open	Close
...

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Company	High	Low	Open	Close
...

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Share gains continue

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end January 23. \$Contango day January 26. Settlement day February 2.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
1	Laporte	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
2	Wolfsheide Risk	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
3	Shope & Pines	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
4	McAlpine (Alfred)	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
5	Brown & Trew	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
6	Breton & Chad	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
7	Int Signal & Comm	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
8	Coats Virella	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
9	Reckitt & Colman	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
10	Avon	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
11	Powell Duffryn	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
12	APV	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
13	Unigate	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
14	Shish	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
15	Began	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
16	Bas	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
17	DSZ	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
18	Pratt	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
19	Equinox Ind	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
20	Shenstone	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
21	Karlens (A)	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
22	Federated Veg	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
23	McCarthy & S	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
24	Culmen	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
25	Whitworth Elm	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
26	Hardanger	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
27	AB Elec	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
28	Micro Focus	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
29	Rayson Shim	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
30	Bibby (J)	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
31	Victors	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
32	Marshall (Londy)	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
33	Ferran	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
34	McKee	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
35	Bentley (CV)	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
36	Willis James	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
37	Bransy	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
38	GEI Int	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
39	Ten Hilde	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
40	Benson Choke	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
41	MS Int	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
42	Fisons	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
43	Deco	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
44	BCC	10.00	9.80	9.90	9.90	4.00	0.10	15.00

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
45

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
46

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
47

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
48

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
49

No.	Company	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	Change	P/E
50

Portfolio - Gold -

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222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 22

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ITALIAN: Knightsbridge MD's secretary (25+). Someone of English mother tongue, very well organised and looking for a classic secretarial role. £10,500+ and splendid view, Camden Town. MD's secretary (English mother tongue and English shorthand) with an interest in the wine trade. £9,000+.

LOTS MORE, so give us a ring if you are a secretary-linguist and your plans for 1987 include a new job.

01 836 3794

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HR

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC AGENCY
One of the world's leading suppliers of photography to the advertising, travel, publishing and corporate markets

ORGANIZING SECRETARY

£9,000

We are a friendly and very busy international stock photo agency (40 staff) based in St. John's Wood close to the tube. We seek an organizing secretary (age 25 to 45) with shorthand who will work with the MD and International Sales, enjoy an enthusiastic atmosphere and packing expansion plans. The successful applicant will apply energy, creativity and imagination to a variety of tasks apart from the secretarial. Your CV, please, to Tony Stone Worldwide (No Agencies).

tony stone worldwide
28 Finchley Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 6ES

Senior Secretary

International Vice-President, Personnel

We require a well-educated Secretary with Word Processing skills to work for the Vice-President Personnel and the Personnel Manager of our International Organisation. Applicants should have previous experience of a busy international environment, should be interested in and possess an aptitude for automated systems; must be able to communicate effectively at all levels and will have a flexible and cheerful approach to work.

In addition to the normal secretarial role, duties will include maintaining computerised personnel records and various administrative procedures. Previous personnel experience is not necessary.

Benefits include annual bonus, LVs and 5 weeks annual holiday.

Please write, enclosing CV and daytime telephone number to:
Joy Hamlyn, Personnel Officer,
Polygram International Limited, 45 Berkeley Square, London W1X 5DB

polyGram

01-581 2295

TM INTERNATIONAL

01-584 9033

TM INTERNATIONAL

KINGS ROAD £14,000 Age 21
A young team of betting agents are looking for an organised secretary/P.A. Meetings, lunches, travel arrangements and telephone co-ordination. Busy and involving job 100/60. W.P. train.

RE-LOCATING £16,000+
A prestigious and very young Investment Bank is looking for a perfect P.A. with energy to help re-locate the company within the City. 100/60. Age 20-25.

OFFICE MANAGER £18,000 neg
Expanding European Bank is looking for a young Office Manager who will also be P.A. to the new MD. Age 20-25. 100/60.

We also have jobs up to £19,000 with either German, Spanish, French or Italian.
Please call us for an interview until 6.30pm.

TOP FLIGHT SECRETARIES

£10,500 - £12,000

CAN YOU CONTROL A HECTIC OFFICE?
Good standard and typing skills essential. Acting as secretary to the Director of the large recruitment, corporate, self-employment who can react to a changing environment. Benefits, mortgage, pension, 100/60. Contact Jan or Gloria on 01 631 4296

FUTURES RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS
Futures Ltd., 61 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5DH

DICTATE, DECORATE, FLACATE

£12,000 IN SW

MD of up-market property company needs a multi-talented P.A. with

clearly stated on interior design, strength of character to handle with

builders and the ability to personally run a successful office. Good

S/H and fast WP needed. Age 24+.

CORPORATE FINANCE BACKGROUND?

£13,000 + BANKING BENEFITS

MD of major US bank needs a P.A. with a strong background in

corporate finance and a stable record in Corporate Finance.

You'll spend 70% of your time overseas, handling highly confidential

information and you'll be taught to negotiate through European

business methods. 90/60 skills and WP needed. European

languages useful. Age 28+.

IF STUNNING SURROUNDINGS APPEAL

£10,000 - EARLY 20's

This development company in Victoria urgently needs a gorgeous

product of a Public School who would love being in the heart of

London, in a glamorous, commercially-minded and

unusually capable. 90/60 skills and WP needed. Contact the

lunch provided.

TEMPTED TO TEMP?

Our team is well paid, working and happy. Like to join?

To complete these positions, please contact Lindsay at 01 493 8824

or Rosemary 01 493 8824

JIGSAW

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

HIGH FLYING OPPORTUNITIES IN 1987

SECRETARY PA

£10,500

Do you have a sense of humour? Would you like to get into Publishing and Advertising? Can you work at Director level? Could you manage senior level people in a fast moving environment? Then don't delay, call us today.

AUDIO SECRETARY

£10,000

This select position practices office and field word processing and will be working with a top partner. In addition to a charming home, you will be working with a top partner.

Contact Sarah Moulden on 01 835 9272, 41 Kingsway, London WC2E 8JF (Opposite Bank House)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

£11,000

Ring in the New Year with this exciting new opportunity. Your exciting new opportunity will be to join a leading company in the City of London. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the company and will be working with a top partner.

EXPORT SUPERVISOR

£10,000

Your exciting new opportunity will be to join a leading company in the City of London. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the company and will be working with a top partner.

Contact Sarah Moulden on 01 835 9272, 41 Kingsway, London WC2E 8JF (Opposite Bank House)

DIRECTORS SECRETARY

£9,500 + BONUS

Your total commitment is essential to the continuation of this company's expansion. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the company and will be working with a top partner.

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

£9,500

Do you consider yourself a 'go to' person? Can you handle a small team? Can you handle a small team? Can you handle a small team?

Contact Sarah Moulden on 01 835 9272, 41 Kingsway, London WC2E 8JF (Opposite Bank House)

SHORTHAND SECRETARY

£9,500

Benefits include pay review after 6 months, staff discount, dental insurance, Pension Scheme and Health Club. Very attractive position for an excellent shorthand secretary. The year ahead, Word Processing skills to replace the Shorthand Dictator of this large company.

WORD PROCESSOR OPERATOR

£9,500

Benefits include 50/15, Christmas Bonus. An opportunity to work in a top company. If you want to be a word processor operator, this is a great opportunity. You will be working with a top partner.

Contact Sarah Moulden on 01 835 9272, 41 Kingsway, London WC2E 8JF (Opposite Bank House)

KINGSWAY RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS **TEMPORARY STAFF SPECIALISTS**

SECRETARY

FOR UK QUOTED PROPERTY GROUP

A Secretary is required by our client, a leading UK quoted property group, with international interests for its Company Secretariat situated near Baker Street.

Aged between 23 and 35, with a command of English to 'A' level standard or equivalent, you will have the ability to liaise at all levels. You should have 3 or more years experience in a comparable environment, with a similar level of responsibility. Audio skills are essential, W.P. would be an advantage (although W.P. training will be given).

The successful applicant will work in luxury offices from 9.30 to 5.30pm. Our client will offer a package consisting competitive salary, (with annual review), 4 weeks annual holiday, season ticket loan (after 3 months service) and BUPA after 12 months service. Company pension and employee share schemes after qualifying periods.

Apply with details of present salary and career history to:

Box No. (T) 113,
The McCann Consultancy,
Hazlitt House,
4 Bouverie Street,
London EC4Y 8AH

YTS CO-ORDINATOR

Salary circa £10,000
(including London Weighting)

As one of the UK's largest travel agency multiples, Lunn Poly Limited has a thriving Youth Training Scheme programme. Young people on the scheme are now our main recruitment source and we are constantly seeking to upgrade the quality of training offered to them.

Re-organisation within the Personnel Department has created a need to appoint a new YTS Co-ordinator to continue the development of our growing scheme.

Naturally this is a role which will appeal to someone committed to the development of young people and who understands the aims of YTS.

The job brief majors on liaison and administration, so the successful candidate is likely to have excellent interpersonal skills, be well organised and numerate.

Written applications with a full CV should be sent to:

Mrs L. Chan,
YTS Co-ordinator,
Lunn Poly Limited,
4/7 Chiswell St,
London EC1Y 4TH.

Lunn Poly

Secretary

Salary £9,129 - £9,954 inclusive

The Chief Executive, Nigel Peck, is seeking a suitably skilled person to join his Department's Secretariat which currently serves not only himself but also the Head of Legal and Committee Services, the Head of Land and General Services, the Chief Personnel Officer and two senior officers based in the Old Palace at the City Centre.

Apart from these special "immeasurable" skills which good secretaries have, measurable skills required are 100wpm shorthand and 40wpm typing. Adaptability to the use of new technology will also be needed as the Secretariat is due to be equipped with new machines for word processing and associated computer-based applications in the near future.

The Secretariat consists of a Senior Secretary and three Secretaries each of whom have their basic responsibilities to designated Chief and Senior Officers but who also provide mutual cover for each other. Ability to handle sensitive material with discretion; to deal with callers tactfully; and to act on one's own initiative is essential.

Please quote Ref: AA.

For further information and an application form please contact: **Leslie & Godwin Ltd**, PO Box 219, 6 Braham Street, London E1.

Director's Secretary

CITY BASED

Leslie & Godwin Limited, a leading firm of Lloyd's Insurance Brokers have two vacancies for Senior Secretaries to join our North American Company, and our Aviation Company.

With your excellent secretarial skills, good educational background, WP experience and an extrovert friendly personality you can soon be working in a small team, using your initiative to deal with people at all levels.

Applicants should be 21+, well educated, of smart appearance, and with previous experience at senior level.

An excellent salary with good benefits will be offered.

Please write enclosing curriculum vitae to: **Leslie & Godwin Ltd**, PO Box 219, 6 Braham Street, London E1.

Leslie & Godwin Ltd

ISC International Secretary Centre

Una importante società multinazionale operante nel settore dell'illuminazione di ha incaricato di ricercare per i propri uffici vicino a Guildford la:

SECRETARIA DEL DIRETTORE GENERALE

La candidata dovrà possedere i seguenti requisiti:

- madrelingua inglese;
- perfetta conoscenza della lingua italiana;
- esperienza in posizione analoga di almeno 3/5 anni maturata preferibilmente nel settore commerciale o industriale;
- doti di comunicativa, dinamismo e capacità di lavorare in autonomia;
- buona presenza.

L'ambiente è giovane e stimolante: offre possibilità di crescita ed uno stipendio interessante. Si prega di inviare un dettagliato curriculum con recapito telefonico ESPRESSO a: **ISC, International Secretary Centre**, 27 Martyns Drive, Guildford Surrey, GU4 7LT Rif. 3D14.

Receptionist

To £9,500

City office of this Swiss bank needs a mature and well presented receptionist to cope with a busy switchboard and greet clients. Other duties will include booking meeting rooms, and making travel arrangements. Preferred age range: 30's - 40's.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W1 01-629 7262

Publishing

£9,500 - £11,000 aae.

The Marketing Director of a hugely successful international publishing company needs an energetic, extrovert P.A. who can keep tabs on a variety of projects simultaneously. Min. 'A' levels, a good work record and excellent skills (100/55/WP) essential. Age 24-30.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W1 01-629 7262

Design Consultants

To £12,000

Exciting opportunity for a professional, confident P.A. to work for the Chief Executive of UK operations. Lots of telephone contact, some bookkeeping and office admin. Skills: 100/50/WP - (IBM experienced pref.) Age: Late 20's.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W1 01-629 7262

Travel Grants

To £10,485 aae.

This leading research organisation requires a senior secretarial/assistant to handle travel grant enquiries relating to overseas international conferences. Previous experience of working in a busy office and coping with periods of pressure. Skills: 100/50. Age: 23-38.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W1 01-629 7262

RENDEL

Rendel Palmer & Tiffin is a major international firm of consulting engineers and project planners which forms part of the rapidly expanding High-Point Rendel group of companies. Since its formation in 1938, Rendel has carried out assignments on every continent and is currently engaged on numerous important projects for UK and overseas public and private bodies.

The firm's record is replete with significant engineering achievements and awards including the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1985 for the design and supervision of the Thames Barrier, London's flood control system.

The following vacancies now exist at the firm's Head Office near London Bridge:

SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR and SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR

Applicants should possess first class secretarial skills including typing and shorthand. Office experience and the ability to organise are essential for both posts. Previous word processing experience would be an advantage. Salaries will be in the range of £9,000 - £10,000 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form please contact: **Jon Dimes**, Rendel Palmer & Tiffin Limited, 61 Southwark Street, London SE1 1SA. Tel: 01-828 9889 (no agencies).

BILINGUAL SECRETARIES

ENGLISH/GERMAN £11,000+

A bilingual secretary with total fluency in both English and German is sought by two senior executives of a major international bank. The successful candidate will possess excellent skills, preferably with shorthand in both languages, and have previous experience in a financial environment. Duties will include the independent execution of all secretarial and administrative functions as well as the implementation of some research projects.

ENGLISH/FRENCH £12,000

An excellent opportunity has arisen within a British merchant bank for a bilingual secretary with English mother tongue and fluent French. The successful candidate, aged 25-35, will provide full secretarial support to an Assistant Director and must, therefore, be educated to 'A' Level standard, offer skills of 100/60 wpm and possess previous banking experience.

ENGLISH/SPANISH £9,500

Our client, a Spanish bank, wishes to recruit a bilingual secretary for one of its executives. In their early twenties, candidates must be totally fluent in both languages and possess fast typing and WP experience.

For details of these and the many other positions which we are currently handling, please contact: **Alison McLaughlin**, Jonathan Wren International Ltd (Bilingual Secretarial Division), 170 Bishopsgate, LONDON EC2M 4LX Tel: (01) 825 1254.

Jonathan Wren International Ltd

LEGAL AUDIO

£11,500+

You need company law experience + audio and WP skills for two lawyers in this powerful American Banking Group in superbly luxurious new offices in EC2. Subsidised mortgage, free lunch, etc.

City 377 6600

£13,500

You will be responsible for secretarial recruitment, induction, training and organising work flow as senior secretary with a large firm of West End management consultants. Good WP skills - ideally IBM.

West End 439 7001

SECRETARIES PLUS

The Secretarial Consultants

Unique Opportunity

£9,000 +

An exciting opening exists for an outgoing young person to join this Royal Charitable Trust with VIPs, film companies, advertising agencies & famous personalities, you will organise film premieres, rock concerts, fashion shows and other fund raising events from beginning to end. Excellent communication skills and organising ability essential. Good typing (shorthand useful). Age 22+. Please telephone 01-493 4466.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

£9,000

Great chance to become totally involved in "the right hand" to a Director of a small, prestigious and successful PR consultancy who truly believe in giving career opportunities to people who learn and grow with them.

You must be able to handle a multitude of tasks, thrive on hard work, fit in well with a close knit team and enjoy dealing with a wide range of clients. Excellent typing (fast) S/H could be useful.

Freelance related atmosphere, a good sense of humour and confidence an absolute must. Age 23-25.

01-499 6566

The GROSVENOR Bureau

P.R. IN THE CITY

c. £10,000

Here is a superb opportunity for a young secretary with some P.R. experience to join the team of a leading City firm. Working on the accounts of well known City firms you will provide secretarial support to the accounts team and assist in the coordination of the launching of new products. With lots of senior level contact and the chance to learn the business, this position would suit someone in their early/mid 20s, with fast accurate typing, some S/H and WP and a cheerful approach to working with a team.

Interested? Call 588 3835.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GERMAN SPEAKING

PA/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Required by MD of extremely busy ladies continental fashion agency. Experience, tact and diplomacy a necessity. Hard work but financially rewarding.

Telephone 01 631 1885

£11,000 P.A. with S/H to Production Director

Advertising Agency £9,000 for End Jobs

£7,500 + for 2 very good college leavers with S/H

£8,500 PA with WP and S/H

needed for 2 top boys at Advertising

£9,500 Client Handling

Secretary International

Advertising Agency in EC4

£9,000 Finance Company

SW7 2 Bubbly

Secretaries preferably with WP

experience

£9,000 + Profit Share

Board Director level secretary

In Advertising SW1

Fast Floor 69 Wigmore Street London W1M 0LQ 01-435 9692

B.J. CRAWFORDS

Office Manager

£11,000

Liaise on an international level with the tycoons and VIPs of the shipping world. Run the office of this small, very well-established broking firm, dealing with clients and organising the three company whizz-kids. Great easy-going environment for a flexible, friendly person with good skills (90/60) and the ability to communicate at all levels. Age 24+.

Please telephone 01-493 4466

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

P.A. £11-12,000

One of London's top P.A. companies has recruited 1 year, former top flyer to the Board of a major Financial P.A. Director. He is looking for a top level P.A. who is experienced, organised and has a good sense of humour. Good secretarial skills (90/60) and a good understanding of business are essential.

OFFICE MEMORANDUMS £12,000

The young, lively Sales Promotion agent is looking for someone with exp. in accounts to the finance, purchase & sales departments. Good secretarial skills (90/60) and a good understanding of business are essential.

ADVERTISING/RESEARCH £12,000

PA/Sec. to work for the Deputy MD and Account Dir. Lots of involvement dealing with press releases, arranging internal and external meetings, etc. Typ. 55-60 S/H WP exp. preferred.

PUBLIC RELATIONS £9,500

Top P.A. agency are looking for someone to work in a fast moving and expanding office. Fast moving and expanding office. Fast moving and expanding office.

PA/Sec. to work for the Deputy MD and Account Dir. Lots of involvement dealing with press releases, arranging internal and external meetings, etc. Typ. 55-60 S/H WP exp. preferred.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES £12,000

International secretaries should contact Sarah or Andy (A/R)

DAVIS CO SECRETARIAL

01-734 6652

CHRISTINE WATSON LTD

2nd Floor, 124 Wigmore St. W1

BEYOND SECRETARIAL

c.£10,000 + FREE TRAVEL

Two exciting opportunities exist within this leading City institution for well educated P.A.'s to undertake administrative duties. The ability to work under pressure, prepare and arrange travel arrangements, handling queries and liaise with clients will ensure total involvement for switched on, well organised team players. Excellent prospects for the career minded.

Tel 01 835 8235 (Rec. Cons)

Public Relations

£9-10,000

A number of our best clients who work in different areas of PR including hi-tech and communications are urgently looking for well qualified secretaries with at least 2 years' experience. Working conditions are good and you will enjoy working in PR if you are confident, enthusiastic and able to take on work as and when your boss needs to delegate.

If you feel you have achieved all that you can in your current job and are looking for a new challenge, please call us to arrange an interview.

Stake: 90/60 Age 22-26

West End Office 629 9806

ANGELA MORTIMER

DRAKE PERSONNEL

BELLA ITALIA

£10,500

A fabulous opportunity has arisen for a stylish person to join the Italian company as PA to the Managing Director. You will be responsible for all correspondence and liaison with the press and public. You will also be responsible for the organisation and running of the office. If you have fast typing and excellent S/H and WP skills, please call us on 01-821 5672.

DAVIS CO SECRETARIAL

01-734 6652

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY MANAGER

DO YOU WANT TO RUN YOUR OWN SHOW?

You will be responsible for launching our latest Central London Branch, that will be assessed as a separate profit centre, and you can be assured that the effort that you make will be acknowledged and rewarded.

As Manager you will be responsible for dealing with both clients and job seekers as well as your own staff. We will be expecting you to go out and secure new business. This means that you will need to have the kind of successful management background preferably gained within the recruitment consultancy industry or a comparable fast moving sales environment that will enable you to develop a rapport with the many company clients that you will be dealing with.

Of course, the job is a demanding one that will require you to have a proven ability to manage an enthusiastic and committed team and although you may run the show, will provide comprehensive backup and training.

An outstanding salary package conducive with a position of this responsibility is offered.

If you relish a fresh challenge in '87 and believe that you have the right qualities of leadership and experience, then telephone 01 631 1114 for an immediate appointment or send a full CV to:

Paul Jacobs

Kingway Recruitment Consultants

Adia House

PO BOX 141

84-86 Regent Street, London W1A 1AL

YOUNG & ASPIRING?

Early 20's and highly efficient? Don't miss this opportunity to earn £10,500 + good bonus as sec. to this team of dynamic fund managers based in the City. Your duties will revolve around all aspects of investment management, and you will become totally involved as well as providing gen. sec. support. Good sh. typ. & WP exp. an advantage. Please call:

01-493 4466

HOBSTONES

Jet-set Underwood wins his wings

replays: Morcanbie vs Stallord; Weymouth vs Beth.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: 8th Dettow Cup: Second round: Cambridge City vs Buckingham (7-6). Premier division: King's Lynn vs Ipswich. Midlands division: VS Rugby vs Rushden.
VAUXHALL-OPPEL LEAGUE: First division: Southampton vs Epsom and Ewell. Second division north: Chesham vs Hemford.
HOCKEY: Bromley vs Oxford University (2-15).
LACROSSE: Tour match: Sheffield University vs Denison University (US).
RACKET: Amateur singles championship (at Queen's Club, West Kensington).
REAL TENNIS: Henry Laing Cup (at Queen's Club, West Kensington).
TABLE TENNIS: England vs Finland (at Norwich).

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

Big hopes run on little wheels

When a BBC TV programme calling itself *They Were Only Sixteen* (BBC1, 9.30pm) begins with a short and erotic sequence showing a male torso and a female's writhing about in a manner that, on Channel 4, would earn it a little warning triangle in one corner of the picture, you could scarcely be blamed if you thought you were in for an experience aimed principally at the prurient. But you would be wrong, because Tamsin Day-Lewis's pleasant little documentary is singularly lacking in account of how two young skating dancers set their sights on becoming champions, how their parents backed them up, and what happened when they competed first in the Junior European Championships, and then in the Senior British Championships. To watch

CHOICE

Angela Buck and Paul Whitaker in action, albeit on roller skates and not on ice, is to understand the impact that Torville and Dean have had on a generation of young skaters. The danger is that T & D might have created a race of clones, and there are moments in Angela's and Paul's routines that confirm this fear. They are, however, two youngsters who respond intelligently to tuition, something you can prove if, thinking back to the opening sequence I have mentioned, you compare it with the later moment in the film when an instructor tells Paul that, in sliding his hand down his partner's body, he should remember that fingers are sensitive things and not pieces of old ham.

6.30pm), a compilation of *March of Time* films about the American Depression in the Thirties, stars memories of *The Grapes of Wrath* with its shots of farming families migrating from the Dust Bowl of the South-West. No doubt about it: the two Johns, Steinbeck and Ford got it right. For me, however, the most interesting thing in *Dust and Dreams* concerns a third John. It is the *March of Time* edition about the campaign by miners' leader John L. Lewis to break the monopolistic power of America's TUC of the day - the Federation of Labour. The fiery Welshman certainly lived up to his reputation as a volcano spouting flames and burning lava. Oratory-wise, too, he deserved another label fixed to him: America's Mussolini.

Peter Davalle

Angela Buck and Paul Whitaker: *They Were Only Sixteen* (BBC1, 9.30pm)Paul Hogan: In part one of *Anzacs* (BBC1, 2.00pm)

BBC1

5.00 *Ceefaz AM*.
5.30 News headlines followed by *The First News*. (r) 6.55 *Weather*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and traffic reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
8.40 *Weekdays*. Viewers have the chance to question Peter Thompson of the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau. 8.55 Regional news and weather. 9.00 *News* and weather. 9.05 *Day to Day*. With Robert Kilroy-Glik. 9.45 *Advice Shop*. Margo MacDonald continues with her advice on dealing with debt. 10.00 *Neighbours* (r) 10.25 *Children's BBC*. Programme news. 10.30 *Play School*. 10.50 *Willo the Wisp*. (r)
10.55 *Five to Eleven*. T.P. McKenna with a thought for the day. 11.00 *News* and weather. 11.05 *Holiday 87*. A repeat of yesterday's programme which included, among other items, reports from Mauritius and St. Kitts. 11.25 *Open Air*, with news and weather at 12.00.
12.25 *Wildlife Showcases*. A documentary about the box jellyfish, a native of the waters off Queensland, which has tentacles that can produce unbearable pain. (r) 12.55 Regional news and weather. One O'Clock News with Marky Lewis. Weather. 1.25 *Neighbours*. Max discovers why Shane went away. 1.45 *Check-a-Bank*. (r)
2.00 *Anzacs*. Episode three of the five-part mini-series following the fortunes of a group of Australians during the First World War. Starring Paul Hogan.
3.40 *Classic Fairy Tales*. Sheila Hancock with the tale of *The Ugly Duckling*. (r) 3.55 *Henry's*

Cat. (r) 4.10 *The Hustler*. (r) 4.15 *Jackpot*. *Griff Rhys Jones* reads part one of *The Church Cat Almanac*. (r) 4.25 *Should Be So Lucky!* Talent competition between stage schools throughout the country. Newsreaders with Roger Finn. 5.05 *Treasure Houses*. The ruins of what once housed the engines that powered the pumps used in Cornwall's tin-mining industry. 5.35 *First Class*. Video quiz for schools. 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather. 6.35 *London Plus*. 7.00 *Wogan*. On the guest list tonight are John Cole, Jacqui Elliott, and Tom O'Connor. Music is provided by Drum Theatre. 7.35 *The Muppet Show*. The guest is Diana Ross. 8.00 *Dad's Army*. Miss Elsie recruits the help of her sons when husband Clayton threatens to do something silly. (Ceefaz) Points of View with Ann Robinson. 9.00 *One O'Clock News* with Julia Somerville and Andrew Harvey. Regional news and weather. 9.30 *They Were Only Sixteen*. Profiles of Paul Whitaker and Angela Buck as they strive to become the youngest couple to win the British roller dance championships. (Ceefaz) (see Choice)
10.20 *Film: The Earthling* (1980) starring William Holden and Ricky Schroder. Drama about a young, recently orphaned, boy, looking for help in the Australian outback, who, deep in the bush, stumbles across Patrick Foley, a loner suffering from cancer. Together they help each other to survive. Directed by Peter Collinson. 11.55 *Weather*.

BBC 2

5.00 *Ceefaz*.
5.30 *News* and weather. 6.00 *Sports Afternoon*, introduced by David Icke. Includes clips, indoor hockey, a preview of Rugby Union's Five Nations Championship, and a report on the fourth day of play in the Fifth Test, including news and weather at 6.30.
6.50 *News*, regional news and weather. 7.00 *Parade*. Armstrong. The guests include Debbie Greenwood and her mother; and joking-for-charity vicars. Plus the start of the *Sun to Win* competition. 7.35 *The World of the 30s*. The first of a new series of 12 programmes about the years between the Depression and the Second World War. This afternoon's programme tells the story of the Wall Street crash, and American life from prohibition to 1939. 8.05 *My Music*. Lightest test of musical knowledge presented by Steve Race. With Frank Muir, John Amis, Denis Norden, and Ian Wallace. (r) 8.30 *Cover to Cover*. Jill Neville takes to the stage with the winners of the Whitbread Book of the Year award, announced last night; and reviews the latest paperback hardbacks including Robert Hughes's controversial new history of Australia, *The Fatal Shore*. 9.00 *Film: Bootlegger* (1974) starring Sam Peckinpah, Paul Koslo, and Jacky Smith. Drama, set in Thirties Northern Arkansas, about a pair of bootlegging families. Directed by Charles B. Pierce. 9.30 *Colours*. Film Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the fourth day's play. 10.00 *Whistle Test*. The first of a new series of the rock show, presented by Andy Kershaw and Mark Ellen. 10.30 *Out of Court* presented by David Jessel and Sue Cook. *My A-Z*. The deep midday and supplies are running very low. But is this the reason Hawkeye and Trapper are tearing up old medical journals into toilet paper-size pieces? (r) 10.55 *Funny Rich and Catling*. Comedy series starring Adrian Edmondson, Rick Mayall, and Nigel Planer. By a writer, who has been comic Richie Rich's agent has managed to find him a slot on a new television game show. 11.00 *World Darts*. The best of the Embassy World Professional Championship, introduced by Tony Gubba from the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, Surrey. The commentators are Sid Waddell and Tony Green. 11.15 *Newsnight*. 11.15 *Weather*. 11.20 *World Darts*. A further visit to the Lakeside Country Club for the best of the second round matches in the Embassy World Professional Championship. Ends at 12.15.

ITV/LONDON

6.15 *TV-am* presented by Mike Morris. Weather at 6.20 and 6.55; news at 6.30; sport at 6.40; and *Ceefaz* at 6.55.
7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Richard Kays. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.25; sport at 7.40; pop music at 7.55; and video report at 8.55. After Nine includes a repeat of a *Su Pollard* interview; Claire Rayner with advice on relationships; and, at 8.17, exercises with Lizzie Webb. 9.25 *News* headlines followed by *Robots*. *Technology of the future* 10.40 *Struggle Beneath the Sea*. The Cleaner Wrasse. (r) 11.05 *Film: The Fabulous Joe* (1947) starring Walter Abel. Comedy about a man who inherits a dog that can talk. Directed by Harvey Foster. 12.00 *Button Moon*. Puppet series for the very young. (r) 12.10 *Answers to 2000* with *Where Here?* A repeat of Monday's programme which included Judith Chalmers investigating the traditional British sea-side industry. 1.00 *News* at One with Leonard Parfitt. 1.20 *Thames news*. 1.30 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama series set in a remote Australian outback town. 2.30 *On the Market*. Susan Brooks and Mark Gordon with advice on the best food buys. The guest chef is Antonio Carluccio. 3.00 *Film: The White Horse Inn*. A comedy and nature quiz presented by Nigel Rees. The panelists are Terry Nutkins, Liz Bonifant, and Tegwyn Harris. 3.25 *Thames news* headlines. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. 4.00 *Creepy Crawlers*. Animated series for the young. 4.10 *The Telephone 4.20* *Soapy* presented by Matthew Corbett. 4.45 *Y.E.S.* Adventure of a group of young people who

CHANNEL 4

6.15 *Their Landships' House*. *Film: The Landships' House* (1934) starring William Powell and Bette Davis. Comedy about a group of fashion spies in Paris to plant the latest designs. The fashion parade finale features a Busby Berkeley routine. Directed by William Dieterle. 6.40 *News* and weather. 7.00 *Travel*. Part one of a two-episode condensed version of Don Juan, the 1925 film directed by Alan Crosland, starring John Barrymore as the legendary lover, with Mary Astor and Myrna Loy among his conquests. 7.30 *16*. Part one of a two-episode examination of what the Government's Youth Training Scheme has to offer. (r) 8.00 *The Marketing Mix*. The first programme in a repeat series of ten about the world of marketing. (Oracle) 8.30 *Dust and Dreams*. The March of Time documentary about the magazine's look at America's lifestyle between 1935 and 1951. (see Choice) (Oracle) 9.00 *Channel 4 News* with Peter Siddons. Channel 4 News King includes a report on Placido Domingo's return to the Royal Opera. 9.30 *Comcast*. The political side of the week is filled by Humphrey Malins, Conservative MP for Croydon, NW, *Weather*. 10.00 *Looking into Paintings*. The first programme of the series and Northern Lynne examines works by Malevich, Mondrian, Ben Nicholson, and Matisse; and then visits contemporary painter Gillian Ayres at her studio in Wales. (r) (Oracle) 10.30 *Diverse Reports*. 11.00 *Down the Line*. Monthly current affairs programme from Scotland, presented by Julie Davidson. 11.40 *Film: Thea (1978)* starring Dennis Hopper. Drama about a Vietnam War veteran who, as he exports the coffin of a dead fellow soldier returning for burial in his home town, gradually cracks up mentally. With Taryn Power, Dean Stockwell, and Topp Swope. Directed by Henry Jaglom. 11.55 *Beyond Belief*. Anthony Clare interviews John Heyn, the new Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, about the Church's role; and if there is a conflict between Church and State. 12.10 *Their Landships' House*. Highlights of the day's proceedings in the House of Lords. Ends at 12.25

VARIATIONS

BBC1 *Wales 6.30pm-8.00pm* Wales Today 6.30-7.00; Wales 7.00-7.30; Wales 7.30-8.00; Wales 8.00-8.30; Wales 8.30-9.00; Wales 9.00-9.30; Wales 9.30-10.00; Wales 10.00-10.30; Wales 10.30-11.00; Wales 11.00-11.30; Wales 11.30-12.00; Wales 12.00-12.30; Wales 12.30-1.00; Wales 1.00-1.30; Wales 1.30-2.00; Wales 2.00-2.30; Wales 2.30-3.00; Wales 3.00-3.30; Wales 3.30-4.00; Wales 4.00-4.30; Wales 4.30-5.00; Wales 5.00-5.30; Wales 5.30-6.00; Wales 6.00-6.30; Wales 6.30-7.00; Wales 7.00-7.30; Wales 7.30-8.00; Wales 8.00-8.30; Wales 8.30-9.00; Wales 9.00-9.30; Wales 9.30-10.00; Wales 10.00-10.30; Wales 10.30-11.00; Wales 11.00-11.30; Wales 11.30-12.00; Wales 12.00-12.30; Wales 12.30-1.00; Wales 1.00-1.30; Wales 1.30-2.00; Wales 2.00-2.30; Wales 2.30-3.00; Wales 3.00-3.30; Wales 3.30-4.00; Wales 4.00-4.30; Wales 4.30-5.00; Wales 5.00-5.30; Wales 5.30-6.00; Wales 6.00-6.30; Wales 6.30-7.00; Wales 7.00-7.30; Wales 7.30-8.00; Wales 8.00-8.30; Wales 8.30-9.00; Wales 9.00-9.30; Wales 9.30-10.00; Wales 10.00-10.30; 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SPORT

Richards forsakes daily grind for weekend cricket

By Richard Streeton

Viv Richards, the West Indies captain, widely regarded as the world's best batsman, is to play for Rishton in the Lancashire League next summer. A Rishton official is now in Australia, where West Indies are touring, and Richards will sign a one-year contract in Brisbane today. It ends much speculation about his future in English cricket following his sacking by Somerset last autumn.

Richards, who is 35 in March, will be paid between £10,000 and £12,000 for a 21-week season with Rishton, who are only involved in weekend matches. At the moment he will be liable to play 26 league games and in four rounds of a cup competition. All fixtures are one-day games, either 46 or 48 overs. The days have long past when league professionals have to help prepare the pitch. Richards, however, will be expected to coach youngsters three evenings a week during Rishton's first team practices.

Richards is the last of the big three names involved in last year's acrimonious dispute with Somerset to find new employment. Joel Garner, the West Indian fast bowler, whose contract, similarly, was not renewed, signed recently for Oldham in the Central Lancashire League. Ian Botham, who resigned in sympathy with the two West Indians, joined Worcester-shire last weekend.

For various reasons, neither Garner nor Richards would have been a realistic acquisition for a first-class county. Both are nearing the end of their careers and Richards certainly would have been unavailable in 1988 when West Indies tour England. Counties these days are also limited to playing one overseas player at a time and most already have a leading cricketer under contract.

Economic factors and modern opportunities to play in the county championship have meant fewer famous

overseas cricketers have joined league clubs in Lancashire in recent years than used to be the case. Richards is by far the most prominent signing by any league club for more than a decade. Rishton have not had anyone approaching as significant since the West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding played for them in 1981.

"Holding increased our gates from a few hundred to around two or three thousand or more at times and we expect Richards to attract even bigger crowds," said Mr Wilf Woodhouse, the Rishton chairman and a self-employed television engineer. Mr Woodhouse met Richards through holding five years ago while holidaying in Jamaica.

"I asked Viv then to give us the first option on his services when he felt he had finished with county cricket. When I spoke to him again in September he remembered, and he has kept his word." The Rishton club are able to finance their deal with Richards through the profits of

More cricket, Page 38

their social section, which is open seven days a week. Rishton, a village near Blackburn with a 6,000 population, is badly hit by unemployment at the present time. "But people still drink a lot of beer," Mr Woodhouse said. "Even if it rained every match next summer we will not lose on the deal."

Rishton have a small ground, flanked on two sides by houses with short, straight boundaries. "He will get a few sixes but we are insured if he breaks any windows," added Mr Woodhouse. Like all Lancashire League players, Richards will be entitled to a cash collection from the crowd if he passes 50 or takes a certain number of wickets.

David Wells, the Rishton captain, who is a brewery transport manager, was understandably thrilled at the prospect of having Richards in the

side. "Apart from his runs, I hope he will get some wickets for us as well," he said. Richards succeeds another West Indian, Winston Davis, whose pace bowling brought him 105 wickets last year. Rishton confirmed they will release Richards if he is selected to play in the MCC v Rest of the World bicentennial match next August.

Under Lancashire League rules, Richards's contract will stipulate he can only play eight matches outside the league during the season. Any additional games he wants to play, even a village match or a benefit appearance, will have to be cleared by the league's management committee. "This is to protect everyone's interests, not just those of the player," said Mr Jim Clarke, the league secretary.

Mr Clarke believes Richards's appearance will give a tremendous fillip to league cricket, which has had an uneven time in recent years. "The players are still adjusting to limited-over matches and bad habits from the county game have crept in, like bowling to contain rather than to take wickets. Richards will have a lot to offer everybody. Our 14 clubs are all closely situated, there are a lot of local derbies and he could thrive in the tense, competitive atmosphere."

Northern League cricket, regarded until recent years with suspicion south of the Trent, has provided employment for famous overseas players for more than 60 years. Leanne Constantine, with Nelson in the 1930s, remains one of the best-known examples. Other celebrated cricketers employed since the last war include the Australians Ray Lindwall and Bob Simpson and the West Indians Sobers, Worrell, Walcott and Weekes.

It is a less arduous life in some ways than playing for a county seven days a week and West Indian officials will be pleased that Richards will have fewer demands made on his commitments and physique. In recent months he has looked stale and tired, not least on official tours.

Somerset officials yesterday wished Richards well. They are still anxious to make some form of recognition to Richards and Garner for their services to the county but for the time being the wounds remain too fresh for there to be any contact.

A deadly rival for Matthews

Sydney (Agencies) — Greg Matthews, some time folk hero of Australian cricket, has hidden his disappointment well over the last few days. The all-rounder was quick to congratulate Peter Taylor after a remarkable six for 78 debut in the first innings of the fifth Test against England. But secretly Matthews must have wondered why his own international career has reached a grinding halt.

Last year, his left-handed batting and improving off-spin bowling was the talk of Australia. Home centuries against New Zealand and India, plus another in Wellington during a return series with the Kiwis, established him as a man likely to tear England apart this winter.

Now Matthews, aged 27, has not only lost his Test place — but lost it to a player whom he has always kept out of the New South Wales side. The reason Taylor, aged 30, played only six first-class games before Saturday is simple: his State do not rate him in the same class as Matthews.

Taylor is a spinner who can bat a little. Matthews the opposite. Two men with differing talents but bracketed together and fighting for one place. Today Australia are to name 12 players for the first two matches against England and the West Indies in the World Series Cup. "I'll be very disappointed if I'm not chosen," said Matthews. "But if I'm not, I will set my sights on making runs and wickets for New South Wales instead."

"I'm pleased for Peter, both as a person and a team member. Without his success we wouldn't have a chance of beating England in the fifth Test. I'm grateful to have played 21 Tests already — that's something I didn't think I would do. Now I must spend more time working on my bowling and take the next opportunity that comes along."

Dilley in demand

Surrey yesterday became the seventh county to give official notice of approach to Kent's 27-year-old England fast bowler Graham Dilley.

Conner punch to Kiwi jugular

From Barry Pickthall Fremantle

Dennis Conner answered all the barbed baiting comments from Chris Dickson, his young rival, in the best manner yesterday, by drawing first blood in their best of seven challenger final in the America's Cup.

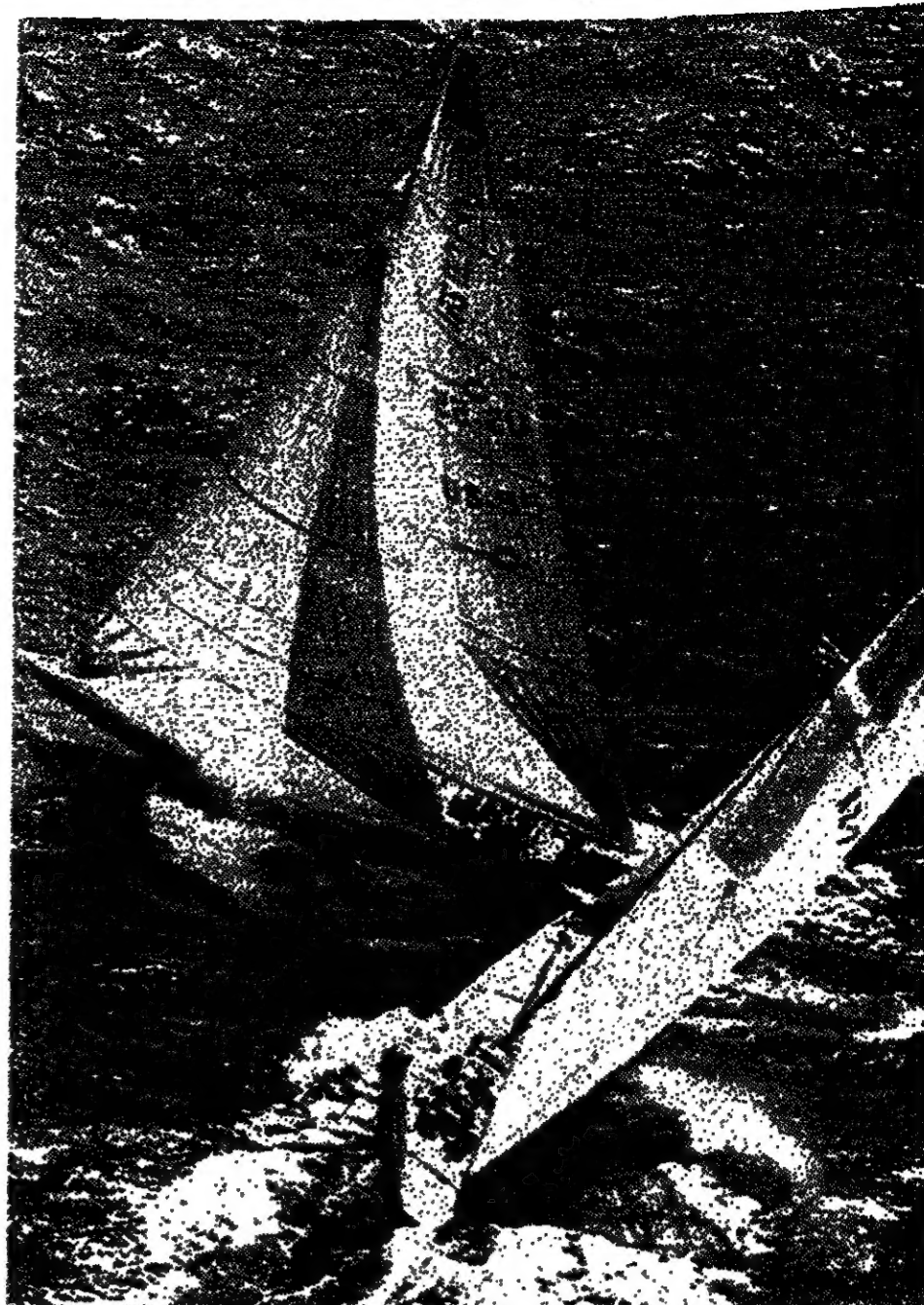
Making most of the wind-whipped seas and with Conner at the helm, Stars and Stripes took control of the race from the start, and after dealing the Kiwis a textbook lesson in close covering tactics, chalked up a morale boosting 1min 20sec win at the finish.

That margin of victory belies the closeness of this battle however, for it was only on the last beat when winds had increased from 20 to 26 knots, that Stars and Stripes pulled an extra half minute into the 6 ft seas that threw continuous water across the decks.

Before the start, the San Diego sailor pointedly steered clear of the faster turning New Zealand IV, heading off to hide within the spectator fleet as soon as the preparatory signal fired. When both boats finally re-emerged, the Kiwis, managed to protect the favoured pin-end of the line by reaching parallel to the start line, forcing Conner to tack away. It was a bold plan, and had the Kiwis crossed the line on the first beat, they would have taken immediate control of the race. Instead, they were 10 sec late, three behind the Americans, and tacking to engage the enemy, found themselves forced to duck under their stern.

"We gave away half a boat length, perhaps we should have held our original course longer," Dickson admitted. Conner said: "It was a very close and could have gone either way." Dickson's quick move to the right helped the Kiwis recover lost ground, for when the two boats closed, Conner was forced to tack under the "Plastic Fantastic".

Unhappily for New Zealand IV, it was the last time the two boats found themselves on a



Attacking tack: Stars and Stripes on the way to drawing first blood over New Zealand IV

collision course, for the next approach saw Conner take the initiative and maintain a close cover to round the windward mark. A perfect gybe-set then gave the Americans clear air at the start of the spinnaker run, and by continuing to gybe out of phase with the Kiwis, Conner gained an extra two seconds at the leeward mark.

Back on the wind again, the Americans displayed greater straight-line speed than New Zealand IV, as the winds strengthened, to round the weather mark 30 sec ahead.

After setting their spinnaker, the Stars and Stripes crew were preoccupied with a faulty mainsail luff zipper and by letting a stay sail first, Dickson's crew clawed back

five seconds on the first reach and a further eight seconds on the second leg back to leeward. "No, I'm not sure how they gained on us during that second leg. We'll study the videos and try to answer it," said Conner.

The New Zealand deficit was now reduced to 18 sec, but raised hearts across the Tasman Sea were soon dashed in rising oceans at Gage Roads. Trying to shake of the American's close cover, the Kiwis sold them a dummy tack only to be caught head to wind as a huge wave exploded against their bows. It stopped them in their tracks, allowing Conner an even greater margin of safety and the American rounded the third weather

mark 41 sec ahead. Now, it was all over, Conner finishing a demoralising 1:20 ahead.

● Making the most of a 40 degrees winds shift, the United Kingdom champion, Simon Cole, moved up to eighth overall in the Swan Premium Laser world championship in Melbourne, recovering from 34th at the first weather mark to take fourth place in yesterday's fourth heat.

RESULTS: Fourth round: 1, J. Parnham (Br); 2, M. Alessandro (Br); 3, C. Pedersen (Br); 4, S. Cole (UK); 5, G. Pardo (Br). Leading British sailors: 7, M. Budd; 15, J. Shewell; 18, G. Charles; 24, R. Stephenson. Second round: 1, G. Stephenson (Sw); 2, S. Wallace (Aus); 3, J. Parnham (Br); 4, J. Parnham (Br); 5, M. Alessandro (Br). Leading British positions: 6, S. Cole; 10, M. Budd; 24, J. Shewell.

FOOTBALL

Luton are not overawed

Anfield's undersoil heating almost certainly ensures that the FA Cup third round replay between Liverpool and Luton Town will be one of the few scheduled matches going ahead tonight.

John Moore, the Luton manager, is unconcerned about Luton's poor record in recent matches at the ground, where they have not won in nine League or Cup matches or about the prospect of switching from Kenilworth Road's artificial pitch to an undersoil-heated surface.

"We are certainly not going to Liverpool believing we are chasing a lost cause," he said. "History might be against us but every sequence has to end one day."

"Sunday's game on our pitch was on a knife-edge and

possibly we had the better of it except for our failure to score. We have won three away games in the first division in varying conditions and the challenge of playing a cup tie at Anfield is one our players are bound to respond to," he said.

Liverpool's player-manager, Kenny Dalglish, who has recovered from an ankle injury, has added himself, Gary Ablett and John Wark to the squad of 13 that drew 0-0 at Luton. Steve Nicol is back in training after a five-match absence with a stomach strain but is not match fit.

Bradford City will name their new manager shortly before tonight's third round replay with Oldham Athletic at Valley Parade. It is expected the man to succeed Trevor

Cherry, who was dismissed last week, will be Terry Yorath, who recently signed a new three-year contract with Swansea. Yorath was Cherry's assistant at Bradford until last November.

Bradford, who recently invested £30,000 in protective covers, are confident the match will go ahead. The pitch was cleared of 5in of snow yesterday and found to be free from frost. The referee will make an inspection at noon today, but Terry Newman, Bradford's secretary, said: "The only way it would be in danger is if two or three feet of snow fell and in our opinion the ground is playable at the moment."

The winners of the tie will be rewarded with a home tie against Everton.

Cup reprieve for Gillingham

Treacherous weather conditions in snow-bound Kent have won an FA Cup reprieve for Gillingham, who had been ordered by the Football Association to go ahead with tonight's third round tie at Wigan Athletic.

The match had already been postponed once because Gillingham could not get out of the area, even though the FA, following police advice, have told Gillingham that they can play next Monday.

Gillingham yesterday made desperate efforts to assemble their isolated players. They

hired a police Land-Rover, while Mark Weatherly, the club captain, took two hours to walk six miles to the Priestfield Stadium. Two other players got stuck in a traffic jam on the M25 and an FA spokesman said: "Gillingham have done all they can and you can't expect them to climb Mount Vesuvius in weather like this."

Other matches put off from tonight until Monday are the West Ham United v Orient replay, Sheffield Wednesday's home game with Derby County, Brighton and Hove Albion's home replay against

Sheffield United, Shrewsbury Town v Hull City and Newcastle United v Northampton Town. The West Ham postponement means that their Littlewoods Cup quarter-final tie against Tottenham Hotspur at Upton Park on January 21 has been put back until January 27.

Early Swindon

Swindon Town's FA Cup fourth round tie against Leeds United will have a 1.30pm kick-off on Sunday, February 1.

Smith is given a new post

By Martin Searby

Steve Smith was yesterday appointed as the Huddersfield Town manager to extend a relationship that has spanned 23 years. The Football League's newest recruit to a most hazardous life joined the Leeds Road staff as a 15-year-old straight from school and, apart from a two-year spell at Halifax, has never left the town where he was born.

Smith, aged 40, has played in all four divisions, captained the side, coached the juniors to Northern Intermediate League and Cup success and run the reserve side so successfully that they are unbeaten this season and are top of the second division of the Central League.

Smith, a modest and dedicated professional, was not expecting the appointment. "I was waiting in my office to give the board the usual report on the club's affairs when the chairman walked in and said 'congratulations, you're the new manager'."

● Swansea City were yesterday fighting to keep their manager, Terry Yorath, at the Vetch Field. The chairman, Doug Sharpe, confirmed that Yorath had requested permission to talk to Bradford City about their vacancy.

Edwards steps down from England post

Vernon Edwards, the England team doctor who was sacked during the World Cup finals in Mexico last year, has retired from the post he has held since 1977.

Dr Edwards, whose last match was against Yugoslavia in November, has made a full recovery from the heart problem he suffered in Mexico but has decided it would be advisable to avoid the stress of future tours abroad with England. He has also retired from being a general practitioner but is to continue as Watford's club doctor.

The FA confirmed yesterday that his position is to be taken over by John Crane, one of Arsenal's club doctors, who stood in for Edwards during the World Cup. The FA also announced that proceeds of £194,000 from this season's Charity Shield match between Liverpool and Everton at Wembley had been distributed to various charities.

Britons brazen it out in the cold

By Simon O'Hagan

While British footballers shiver and slither on frozen practice pitches, trying to prepare for a match which might not take place for a month, they will find little comfort in the thought that had they been playing in the Continent they could be spending the worst of the winter in the rather more temperate climes of Tahiti, the West Indies, Africa or Saudi Arabia.

Apart from the Mediterranean countries, Britain is the only one in Europe which, with an almost Camille-like obstinacy, attempts to defy nature by playing football throughout the winter. A huge backlog of fixtures in the spring is the inevitable result. In West Germany and France they have given up the unequal struggle. Both countries have traditionally had a three or four-week break spanning the Christmas and New Year period but after enduring two harsh winters in succession they have decided this season to pack up for more than two months. The Germans' last round of matches was on December 6, with their next on February 21; the French break began on December 13 and ends on February 23.

"It seems to have been a good idea," a German Football Federation spokesman, Helmut Guntter, said yesterday. "The temperature is down to minus 20deg Centigrade, and even if the pitches were fit for playing the ice in the stadiums would make it too dangerous for spectators. We may still have problems when the season resumes."

Germans keep in touch indoors

In the meantime German players are keeping in training by playing indoors. And to get used to the outdoor life again some clubs are off to Spain, Greece or Saudi Arabia during the last two or three weeks of the break.

Ironically, there is a club for whom West Germany itself is proving to be the perfect haven at this time of the year. Dynamo Kiev, the great Russian side, are spending this month there, the Soviet Union's domestic season having ended last month. Kiev, of course, has been a good place to get away from lately, and not just because of the weather.

The club with the most enviable destination of all must be Olympique Marseilles, the French championship leaders, who have followed the Gauguin trail to Tahiti in the South Pacific. A bunch of sofas they may be in the eyes of many a hard-core English fan, but beach football never did the Brazilian game any harm.

Other French teams are off to West Africa while Bordeaux and Paris Saint-Germain are playing each other in a tournament in the West Indies. But it is not all sun and sand: in order to keep the players at Auxerre and Nancy fit, their managers have taken them to the Alps for cross-country skiing.

French game is about equality

In introducing a two-month break the French are trying to ensure that, at any given point in the season, all teams have played the same number of games. In this country we are used to some teams having games in hand over others, a situation invariably brought about by postponement — even though this can put them at an advantage at the end of a season.

Remember what happened two years ago. With four games to make up at the end of the season Coventry, knowing they had to win them all, stayed in the first division, did just that, and poor Norwich were relegated.

Such a long mid-season break creates, in effect, two championships, one for the first half of the season and one for the second, something which has run into criticism from some clubs. And Jacques, the manager of Bordeaux, feels that the break is so long, and the training methods employed by clubs during it are so varied, that the form players have established by December counts for nothing by the time February comes around.

There is also the problem of the summer break, if you can call it a break at all. In France and West Germany this summer it will last just six weeks. Nobody seems to mind, but then they don't have cricket, do they?

Crossword winners

The names of the winners of our Christmas crossword competition and the solution will be published tomorrow.

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